



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #88-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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**DOI ARRESTS AWNING CONTRACTOR ON A CHARGE OF SUBMITTING
A FALSE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION TO THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of YAT CHAN on a charge that he submitted a false Certificate of Correction to the New York City Department of Buildings ("DOB"). DOI's investigation found that CHAN, an owner of Wing Lee Consultants, submitted documents falsely stating he had corrected a violation for installing a storefront awning in Brooklyn without a permit. Wing Lee Consultants is a Brooklyn-based sign and awning installation company.

CHAN, 53, of Brooklyn, was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Conviction of a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Contractors doing business in the City must obtain the proper permits before embarking on construction projects. Submitting a false document to circumvent the process is a crime. Permits are required to ensure that the work is done safely and in accordance with the construction codes and that the City is aware of ongoing projects. As this arrest shows, contractors who falsify City records to feign compliance will be held accountable."

The City Environmental Control Board, which was adjudicating the failure to obtain a permit for the awning installation, notified DOI about suspicions regarding CHAN's assertions that the violation had been resolved.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that on April 30, 2007, DOB issued a violation for the unauthorized installation of a storefront awning at a discount store at 2225 86th Street in Brooklyn. In September 2007, CHAN submitted to DOB a Certificate of Correction, along with a letter and photograph, certifying that the violation had been corrected by the removal of the unauthorized awning. DOI's investigation found that while the awning cover had been taken down, the awning structure had not been removed. The investigation also found that the photograph CHAN submitted to DOB, at its Manhattan office, had actually been taken before the awning was installed. If the proper permit had been obtained and the awning reinstalled it would have cost approximately \$2,000.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner-designate Robert LiMandri and DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and their staffs for their cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DEP's Inspector General Michael Carroll and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy.

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Savvas Diacosavvas, under the supervision of Special Prosecutions Bureau Chief Thomas Wornom.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**