



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #91-2006
nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

Statement from DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn
-- Monitors will oversee City Contractors for street lights and traffic signals --

The New York City Department of Investigation will continue to ensure that the City only does business with vendors with integrity. Issues with these vendors for street lights and traffic signals are being addressed by DOI in close coordination with the New York City Department of Transportation. The current situation creates for the City the challenge of both addressing issues of integrity and, at the same time, ensuring that the hundreds of thousands of street lights and traffic signals throughout the five boroughs remain in working order without disruption. Therefore, in recent months, due to the investigation of which DOI has been a part for more than seven years and in anticipation of the indictment of New York State Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin, DOI employed its integrity monitor program.

Specifically, DOI has integrity monitors in place who are monitoring the relevant vendors prospectively to guard against this or any type of misconduct. They are doing so as these contracts come up for extension. The situation with those vendors has and will continue to be evaluated on a day-to-day basis in light of the on-going criminal investigation. The cost of the monitors will be incurred by the electrical vendors.

DOI has a long history of utilizing monitors and an established procedure for selecting them, which includes a public posting soliciting expressions of interest from any firm that seeks to be considered for an appointment as a monitor. When a situation arises that calls for the appointment of a monitor, a committee evaluates and decides which firm from among those that have expressed interest is best suited for the project. DOI does not allow companies to select their own monitor so that monitors will be truly independent of the companies' interests.

An integrity monitor provides a contractor with an expert team of attorneys, forensic accountants and investigators with special training and experience to establish and enforce good business practices and a code of ethical conduct for the contractor. This integrity monitor, in turn, reports to DOI, and works closely with DOI to ensure the City's interests are protected.

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 directly at (212) 825-5959.