



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CHARGED WITH SHAKING DOWN MONEY FROM A  
MANHATTAN BUSINESS OWNER AND PROVIDING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS THAT WERE INOPERABLE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrests of SERGEY VISHNEV and MAXIM ILIM who are charged with demanding that a Manhattan business owner purchase fire extinguishers, which were later found to be inoperable, from them or they would contact Fire Marshals from the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) to shut down the business.

VISHNEV, 27, and ILIM, 26, both of Brooklyn, were arrested during a DOI investigation late Friday, December 28, 2007. Each of the individuals has been arrested for Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor and Reckless Endangerment of Property, a class B misdemeanor. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in prison. The case is being referred to the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

DOI's investigation began after it was alerted that two men entered a business in Manhattan and demanded that the business owner purchase fire extinguishers. If the owner did not purchase the fire extinguishers for \$1,350, the men told the owner that they would call the Fire Marshals to shut down the business. The business owner paid \$700, a portion of the money requested by the men, and the men gave the business owner four fire extinguishers later found to be inoperable and not properly serviced or inspected. The business owner then contacted DOI, and DOI commenced an undercover investigation wherein, under DOI direction, the second payment demanded by the defendants of \$650 was made. DOI's investigation found that two of the fire extinguishers contained fraudulent inspection tags that were stolen from another site and modified and that these two men had no authority to service, inspect, or certify fire extinguishers, nor did they have the authority to have a business shut down for not purchasing their product.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These allegations are troubling not only because they involve intimidation and a demand for money but also because they involve equipment designed to protect the public. In this case, the result of attempting to use these inoperable fire

extinguishers to put out a fire could have been disastrous. DOI is committed to rooting out this type of corruption.”

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia and the Bureau of Fire Investigations for their assistance.

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for the Fire Department of New York City.

An arrest charge is an accusation. 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.**