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**JOINT STATEMENT BY DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN AND
DOB COMMISSIONER PATRICIA J. LANCASTER**

The arrests of two engineers, two general contractors and an expeditor yesterday highlight a concern that DOI and DOB have about construction professionals circumventing the legal and ethical standards set for them. These cases underscore the seriousness of trying to evade the City's Building Code. The allegations include criminal conduct such as filing false documents and engaging in "plan stamping" schemes, in which architectural plans are approved without properly reviewing them for accuracy and adherence to the New York City Building Code. Such false filings mask deficiencies that could lead to structural defects and result in safety hazards in the future.

To ensure that the 24 building sites associated with these arrests are safe, DOI investigators and DOB inspectors will return to the sites within the next six months and will conduct comprehensive plan reviews and re-inspections.

These arrests were part of the Operation Safe Building and Housing initiative established by Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, a cooperative effort to ensure the integrity of the building process. DOI and DOB are pleased to participate in the initiative.