



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARGARET GARNETT
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #13-2021
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**REMARKS OF DOI COMMISSIONER MARGARET GARNETT ON WAGE THEFT INVESTIGATION
WITH MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND NICE IN BATTERY PARK**

DOI is pleased to stand with the Manhattan District Attorney, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), and the state Department of Labor on what is a top priority for DOI: worker protection and safety on construction sites. Through our investigations, DOI has found that wage theft is often a red flag for other types of wrongdoing and cut corners at construction sites. And this investigation was no different, revealing a contractor refusing to pay its workers that was also unlicensed and uninsured. Integrity on construction sites, safety on construction sites, go hand-in-hand.

This investigation shows the power of law enforcement and the community working together to ensure that workers are not exploited and victimized. The partnership that you see among all of us standing here today spurred this investigation. NICE has built a trusted link with workers across this City, giving them the confidence to step forward and report wrongdoing so law enforcement can work to hold dishonest contractors accountable and ensure that workers get their rightful wages.

I thank NICE, the Manhattan DA, and state DOL for their dedicated partnership and efforts. And I want to commend all of the workers here today whose bravery in reporting that they were not getting paid led to them finally receiving the wages they deserve and helped us hold an unlicensed – and now out of business -- subcontractor accountable. DOI celebrates each and every one of you for your courage and resilience. And we celebrate the power and significance of partnership and how working together gets the results you see here today.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/NYC_DOI
Bribery and Corruption are a Trap. Don't Get Caught Up. Report It at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**