



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FORMER CHIEF IN FDNY'S BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION PLEADS GUILTY TO PROVIDING EXPEDITED PLAN REVIEWS AND PRIORITY INSPECTIONS IN RETURN FOR BRIBES**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's guilty plea by BRIAN CORDASCO, 50, of Staten Island, N.Y. to Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe, before U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman in the Southern District of New York. As part of the plea agreement, CORDASCO has agreed to forfeit \$57,000, an estimate of the bribes received by the defendant. A sentencing date has been set for February 19, 2025. This investigation began in 2023, when the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") notified DOI of a possible scheme involving improper payments to two high-ranking leaders of the Bureau of Fire Prevention ("BFP"). The case was investigated by DOI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which is handling the prosecution.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This former Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention chose to ignore his responsibility to the City and its taxpayers when he took thousands of dollars in bribes in exchange for expediting certain fire reviews and inspections. Today's guilty plea sends the clear message that any City official or employee who exploits their position for personal profit will face serious consequences. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their continuing partnership with DOI on significant investigations involving public corruption. And I thank the FDNY for promptly reporting this matter to DOI."

CORDASCO and co-defendant ANTHONY SACCAVINO, 59, of New York, N.Y. were charged on September 16, 2024, in connection with repeatedly abusing their positions of trust as high-ranking officials in the FDNY from at least in or about 2021 through in or about 2023 by soliciting and accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribe payments in exchange for providing preferential treatment to certain individuals and companies with matters pending before the BFP. The BFP oversees and approves the installation of fire safety and suppression systems in commercial and residential buildings in the City, ensuring that these systems comply with fire safety regulations. In many cases, BFP approvals are required before a building can be occupied or opened to the public.

CORDASCO and SACCAVINO were charged with one count each of conspiracy to solicit and receive a bribe, solicitation and receipt of a bribe, honest services wire fraud, conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud; and making false statements. The release on the charging of these defendants can be found [by clicking here](#).

The criminal case against SACCAVINO is pending and his next court appearance is scheduled for December 2024.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber thanked Damian Williams, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and James E. Dennehy, Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of

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the FBI, and their dedicated staff for their work with DOI on this significant investigation. Commissioner Strauber also thanked FDNY Commissioner Robert S. Tucker and his staff for their cooperation in this investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Investigative Attorney Jasmine Harris and Investigative Auditor YingTong Yu, and was supervised by Director of Audits Laila Yu, Deputy Inspector General Arturo Sanchez, Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*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.*

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