



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FORMER CHIEF IN FDNY'S BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION PLEADS GUILTY TO  
PROVIDING EXPEDITED PLAN REVIEWS AND 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 ANTHONY SACCAVINO, 59, of New York, 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 his plea agreement, SACCAVINO has agreed to forfeit \$57,000, the estimated amount of bribes he received. A sentencing date has been set for May 14, 2025, 2025. SACCAVINO is the second of two co-defendants to plead guilty in this investigation that 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 provided preferential treatment to clients of a former FDNY colleague, expediting the clients' plan reviews and inspections in return for over \$50,000 in bribes. As today's guilty plea demonstrates, public officials who compromise City processes with pay-to-play schemes undercut government's ability to serve the public equitably, and will be held accountable. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their continuing partnership on significant investigations involving public corruption. And I thank the FDNY for promptly reporting this matter to DOI."

SACCAVINO, of New York, N.Y., and co-defendant BRIAN CORDASCO, 50, of Staten Island, 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 2021 through 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](#). CORDASCO pled guilty in October 2024 to Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe and he is scheduled to be sentenced on March 24, 2025. DOI's statement on his guilty plea can be found [by clicking here](#).

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DOI Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber thanked Danielle R. Sassoon, 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 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.

*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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