



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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QUEENS MAN ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of DENNIS HEALY, a Queens property owner, for paying a \$120 bribe to an undercover Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) code enforcement inspector working with DOI. According to Commissioner Gill Hearn, HEALY paid the bribe so that the inspector would not report that HEALY was performing construction work on a garage in the back yard of a two-family house he co-owns at 314 Beach 98th Street, in Far Rockaway, Queens, without a required Department of Buildings (DOB) permit.

DOI began its investigation in June 2001, after another HPD inspector, who had responded to a tenant's complaint of no hot water in the house's second-floor apartment, reported that HEALY had tossed \$30 into the passenger side of the inspector's vehicle, apparently as a gratuity.

As part of DOI's investigation, on June 28, 2001, the undercover inspector, wearing a concealed recording device, met with HEALY at the Beach 98th Street property to conduct a follow-up inspection of the second-floor apartment. As the inspector and HEALY were leaving the house, the inspector observed a wood frame garage under construction in the rear yard and advised HEALY that he needed a work permit from DOB. HEALY then paid the inspector \$120 not to report the violation of his working without such a DOB permit.

HEALY, 44, of 417 Beach 131st Street Far Rockaway, was charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to HPD Commissioner Jerilyn Perine and her staff, particularly the housing inspector who reported Healy's \$30 payment, for their cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including Confidential Investigator Trina R. Jones. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Yvonne Creque.

The charges are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless convicted in court.