

HOW MANY CASES DOES DOI HANDLE IN A YEAR?

Each year, DOI arrests, or refers for prosecution, hundreds of individuals and companies. It has arrested inspectors who take bribes, contractors who pay kickbacks, City employees who embezzle taxpayer funds, and public officials who violate their oath of office.

ARE CITY WORKERS OBLIGATED TO REPORT POSSIBLE WRONGDOING?

Pursuant to Mayoral Executive Order 16, a City employee must report corruption allegations to DOI. This ensures that the charges will be probed confidentially and professionally by investigators independent of the employee's own agency and superiors.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Employees who report wrongdoing to DOI are entitled to special protection. DOI aggressively investigates any complaints of retaliation against City employees who provide information to DOI (or other officials specified in the City's Whistleblower Law) about corruption, criminality, conflict of interest, gross mismanagement, or abuse of authority. The Law and Mayoral Order protect these employees from dismissal, demotion, suspension, or negative performance evaluations. However, to be protected, an employee must have reported the fraud or abuse before he or she suffers an adverse personnel action.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Although DOI's investigators and other staff members frequently initiate and develop their own investigations, DOI encourages and relies upon City employees, people who do business with the City, and the public at large to report any corrupt activity they may see or hear.

DOI's Complaint Bureau, and all of DOI's Inspector General offices, receive complaints. Every complaint is carefully reviewed and evaluated. Many of these complaints become the focus of a full investigation.

You may reach the Complaint Bureau by phone at:

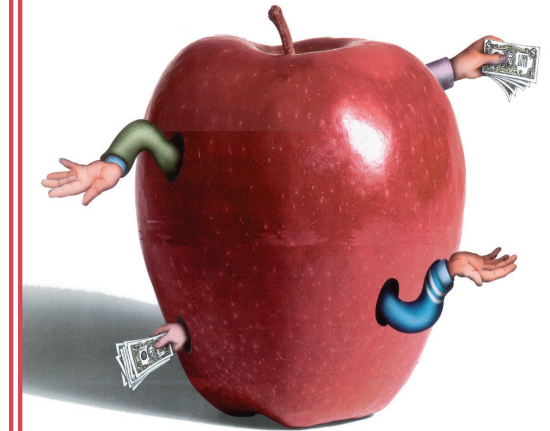
212-825-5959
or
212-3-NYC-DOI

or by mail or in person at:

**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION
80 MAIDEN LANE, 17th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038**
(all communications are strictly confidential)

or on-line at:
www.nyc.gov/html/doi

**YOU PAY FOR CITY SERVICES. MAKE SURE
YOU GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH**



Get the worms out of the Big Apple

If you know someone who's ripping off the City of New York, call:

212-3-NYC-DOI
(all calls will be kept confidential)



The City of New York
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner
www.nyc.gov/html/doi

WHAT EXACTLY IS DOI?

The New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the nation, predating the FBI by more than half a century. As the investigative agency primarily responsible for investigating municipal corruption, DOI has been going after the cheaters and lawbreakers who give this town a black eye for more than 125 years.

IS CORRUPTION A BIG PROBLEM AMONG CITY EMPLOYEES?

No. Most public employees are honest, hardworking people. But, as in any other business, you'll always find a few who think they're above the law. Take, for instance:

- * the City worker who asks for a "tip" just to provide a service that you, as a resident and taxpayer, are entitled to get free of charge; or
- * the employee who uses a City-owned car or equipment for personal business or pleasure; or
- * the City employee who fakes an injury in order to collect disability pay.

That's where DOI comes in. As the Mayor's watchdog over City government, DOI roots out fraud, waste, and corruption wherever it may be.

DOES DOI JUST INVESTIGATE CITY EMPLOYEES FOR FRAUD?

No. New York City's Charter empowers DOI to investigate all City agencies, all City officers and employees, and also any person or firm doing business with the City or receiving money from the City.

Thus, DOI can investigate a private businessperson or property owner who defrauds the City or offers gifts or money to a City employee in return for a special favor. For example:

- * a merchant who pays off a sanitation worker to avoid getting a summons for a dirty sidewalk; or
- * a contractor or supplier who bills the City for goods or services never provided; or
- * a landlord who bribes a City inspector to overlook a housing code violation; or
- * a vendor who gives a City employee a discount on personal purchases after the employee purchased items for use by the City.

HOW DOES DOI UNCOVER CORRUPTION?

DOI conducts investigations using a staff of highly trained inspectors general, attorneys, investigators, police detectives, auditors, corruption prevention analysts, and computer experts. DOI often initiates undercover "sting" operations.

INSPECTORS GENERAL

An Inspector General is assigned to each City agency to monitor agency programs for possible corruption hazards and gather evidence of criminal misconduct. (A listing of Inspectors General can be found in the City's Green Book.) DOI's investigations may also expose activities that are not criminal but are still improper, wasteful, or inefficient.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DOI UNCOVERS CRIMINAL CONDUCT?

When a DOI investigation uncovers criminal conduct, DOI may arrest the suspect, or it may refer evidence of the crime for prosecution to one of the City's local District Attorneys or federal United States Attorneys. In such cases, DOI continues to work with the prosecutor after referral to prepare and present the case for trial.

When an investigation uncovers evidence of financial loss to the City, DOI works with the prosecutor or City Corporation Counsel to recover the money.

DOI investigations frequently lead to asset forfeitures or civil actions against City employees and contractors who have obtained City funds by fraud or theft.