

Full Statement of MTA Inspector General Barry L. Kluger re the Sentence of Former MTA Manager for Soliciting and Accepting Bribes

I thank the United States Attorney's Office for having moved aggressively and effectively to prosecute these criminal acts that undermine the integrity of the public contracting process. I will continue to refer such misconduct to my law enforcement partners for vigorous investigation and prosecution. I also want to remind those who do business with the MTA of their obligations, to both the MTA and the public, to report any solicitations or requested bribes.

While it is obvious that MTA employees who solicit bribes or gifts are subject to termination and criminal prosecution, I want to emphasize that the failure of any vendor or contractor to immediately report any such solicitation or request to the MTA is itself an extremely serious violation of the MTA Vendor Code of Ethics. In fact, as a condition of even being considered for award of a contract, vendors and contractors must confirm their understanding and acknowledge their responsibility to report solicitations of bribes or gifts. If they fail to adhere to these requirements, the MTA has the right to institute proceedings to declare them non-responsible, in material breach of their contract, and/or debar them from doing any business with the MTA or its agencies. Additionally, these vendor and contractors could be subject to further penalties under law.

I also want to emphasize that my office has made MTA employee and vendor/contractor misconduct a primary focus of my office. Two units—the Construction Fraud Unit and the Procurement Integrity Unit—conduct ongoing reviews and investigations to uncover wrongdoing. Indeed, it was one such investigation that uncovered the wrong-doing in this very case and ended in today's conviction and sentence.