



The City of New York
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**PRINCIPALS OF FIRE ALARM REPAIR COMPANY SENTENCED TO PRISON TIME FOR
DECADE-LONG SCHEME TO DEFRAUD CITY AGENCIES BY OVERBILLING**

Earlier today, in federal court in Brooklyn, WALTER STANZIONE, 66, of East Meadow, N.Y., the principal of a fire alarm maintenance company, was sentenced to 56 months in prison on wire fraud conspiracy charges by United States District Judge Rachel P. Kovner. STANZIONE was the second of two co-defendants sentenced by Judge Kovner this week to prison in a decade-long scheme to defraud the City of New York by seeking payment on millions of dollars of grossly inflated fraudulent bills. STANZIONE was also ordered to pay \$1.6 million in forfeiture; restitution will be determined by the Court at a later date. On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, WILLIAM NEOGRA, 65, of Millsboro, DE, was sentenced to 22 months' incarceration, also on wire fraud conspiracy charges, followed by two years of supervised release; restitution will be determined by the Court at a later date. STANZIONE is scheduled to surrender on January 12, 2026 and NEOGRA, on January 12, 2026.

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI); Joseph Nocella Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office (FBI); and Harry T. Chavis, Jr., Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, New York (IRS-CI New York) partnered on this investigation and announced this week's sentencings.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "For more than a decade, these defendants used shell companies and inflated invoices to overbill multiple City agencies, including the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Sanitation. As these sentences make clear, defrauding City taxpayers has serious consequences. I thank our federal law enforcement partners for their partnership and commitment to protecting City resources and holding accountable those who commit fraud."

Harry Chavis, Special Agent in Charge of IRS-CI New York said, "While millions of dollars were billed to the City of New York, Stanzone and Neogra packed their pockets with the illicit profit made from their elaborate scheme. This fraud of shell companies, inflated prices and false invoices may have seemed like a way to get-rich-quick—up until they got caught by law enforcement. Now these sentencings will see to it that both Stanzone and Neogra will face prison time for stealing from City taxpayers to fund their own greedy interests."

As set forth in various public court filings and in court proceedings, the defendants controlled Fire Alarm Electrical Corp., a company that held numerous contracts with City agencies to repair and maintain fire alarm systems. For more than a decade, the defendants overbilled those agencies by submitting fraudulent invoices with dramatically inflated prices.

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They accomplished this scheme in several ways:

- The defendants created numerous shell companies that were secretly owned by defendant STANZIONE. After purchasing supplies from legitimate retailers, the defendants would re-invoice the parts through the shell companies for roughly three to five times the real purchase price, ultimately passing along those “costs” to the City.
- The defendants took advantage of pre-existing shell companies that were being used in other ongoing frauds. For example, the defendants used shell companies created by convicted EDNY defendant David Motovich, which Motovich had used in an entirely separate fraud scheme that was also investigated and prosecuted by DOI, EDNY, FBI, and IRS (21-CR-497).
- When City auditors became suspicious of the shell companies, the defendants fraudulently modified the documents of legitimate retailers, passing off the altered invoices from these companies as if they were genuine.

These methods enabled the defendants to submit millions of dollars of fictitious payment requests to four separate City agencies over an eleven-year period. Defendant STANZIONE, the leader of the fraud, then siphoned off much of the ill-gotten gains and used the stolen money to fund his family’s lavish spending habits.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Joseph Nocella Jr., U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for his office’s partnership on this case, which is being prosecuted by the Office’s Public Integrity Section. Assistant United States Attorneys Erik Paulsen, Michael Gibaldi and Eric Silverberg are in charge of the prosecution, with the assistance of Paralegal Specialist Kavya Kannan. Commissioner Strauber also thanked Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI New York Field Office and his dedicated staff, as well as Harry Chavis, Special Agent in Charge of IRS-CI New York, and his staff, for their partnership on this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Anastasia Plakas, formerly the Assistant Inspector General of DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (currently DOI’s Director of Vendor Integrity) and was supervised by Deputy Inspector General Aleksandro Tilka, Inspector General Ann Petterson, 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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