



NEWS

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MTA EMPLOYEE ASSISTS INSPECTOR GENERAL AND POLICE IN ARREST OF BROKER IN ALLEGED BRIBERY ATTEMPT

A Glendale real estate broker has been arrested for allegedly attempting to bribe an MTA real estate department employee in an effort to increase the purchase price of three properties along the proposed Metro Rail alignment in East Los Angeles in which the broker has a financial interest.

Following a 10-week investigation by the MTA Inspector General's Office, Sam Danielian, also known as Sarkis Danielian, a licensed real estate broker, was arrested Feb. 1, 1996, with the assistance of the Glendale Police Department's Special Investigation Squad. Danielian operates 16 real estate-related, banking, investment and construction businesses in Glendale.

"The suspect initially contacted the MTA employee, Mr. Bill Satterfield, in early December," said John Wynes, deputy inspector general for investigations. "Mr. Satterfield reported the contact to us and, under our direction, had a total of three meetings and three phone calls in which the suspect attempted to obtain confidential information about the MTA's real estate plans."

"Danielian also was heard by our investigators to offer to pay Mr. Satterfield to help boost the prices of the land parcels he was interested in," Wynes said. "Mr. Sattersfield's cooperation has been key to the success of this investigation."

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Danielian was booked Feb. 1 at the Glendale Police Department and released after posting bail. The Inspector General's Office is continuing its investigation while a criminal complaint is being sought through the District Attorney's office. Danielian is charged with giving or offering bribes to executive officers, California Penal Code 67, and with conspiracy to defraud, Penal Code 182.

"Bill Satterfield deserves the MTA's appreciation for reporting this criminal conduct immediately to the Inspector General," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA interim chief executive officer. "We will not tolerate attempts to violate the public trust or to defraud taxpayers. The Inspector General's Office is to be congratulated for its quick and thorough investigation."

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