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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 27, 2010

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City of Chicago Employee Sentenced For Bribery Under *Operation Crooked Code*

A City of Chicago employee was sentenced to 21 months in prison today for bribery. Tom Zirolì, a 64 year old former Ventilation Inspector with the City of Chicago Department of Buildings, was also sentenced to two years of supervised release, a \$15,000 fine, an additional \$100 special assessment, and will be required to pay back \$500 in government money used during the investigation.

A joint City of Chicago Inspector General (IGO), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), investigation revealed that Zirolì accepted a \$500 bribe from a cooperating witness to guarantee that a ventilation inspection for a residential building would pass.

The sentencing is part of an ongoing federal corruption investigation, code-named *Operation Crooked Code*. It has been made possible by extensive cooperation between the IGO, USPIS, FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. To date, there have been seventeen individuals convicted under *Operation Crooked Code*, twelve of whom were current or former City employees.

The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Christopher Hotaling and Andrew Porter before Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer of the U.S. District Court of Northern Illinois.

Anyone with information about alleged corruption in the city permit process is encouraged to contact the City Inspector General's Office either through its hotline – (866) 448-4754, or through its web site at www.chicagoinpectorgeneral.org.

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