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***COMMUNITY PARTNER IN JUSTICE NOTIFICATION***

**Contractors Charged with Stealing Over \$1 Million by Shortchanging**

**Workers in New York City Housing Authority Construction Project**

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson announced charges against three construction contractors for stealing over \$1 million from workers they employed at NYCHA-funded construction projects at the Brown Houses in Crown Heights and Glenmore Plaza in Brownsville.

Mehdi Dayan of EEC Group Tech Inc., Mohammed Miah of T&J Contracting Inc., and Sharifullah Sowpon, the foreman of T&J Contracting Inc., are accused of paying nearly 30 employees at wages of less than half of the contracted prevailing wage, pocketing the difference, and instructing their employees to lie to NYCHA integrity monitors about how much they were working. They are charged with larceny and scheme to defraud and face up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Thompson said, "These defendants were expected to make much needed repairs to these housing developments, and not steal from their employees and line their own pockets. To make matters worse, they allegedly made the victims lie to conceal the fact that their wages were being stolen. We'll now make sure that all of the employees get back every penny that they worked so hard to earn and prosecute everyone involved in this outrageous scheme."

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**These charges are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.**