

METRO



Construction firms accused of ripping off nearly \$10M from contractors

By Rebecca Rosenberg

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Daniel McGovern and James Galvin
Steven Hirsch

Four men and three corporations were indicted Wednesday for ripping off nearly \$10 million from 40 subcontractors for work they performed on major Manhattan construction projects, officials said.

"This type of fraud is harmful to the entire New York City construction industry," said Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. in a statement. "It forces the small businesses that complete multi-million dollar projects they do not get paid for to lay off employees or even declare bankruptcy."

James Galvin, 45, the president of Artisan Construction, and Garret Branagh, 44, the company's chief financial officer, allegedly defrauded 17 subcontractors out of \$2.9 million by refusing to pay them, according to DA's office.

Daniel McGovern, 53 of McGovern & Company, pulled off a similar scheme against 16 subcontracting companies, failing to pay them for \$5.6 million in work from 2013 to 2016, officials said.

Galvin and McGovern were arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan Supreme Court on charges of grand larceny and scheme to defraud. They were released on \$500,000 bond, which was arranged by bail bondsman Ira Judelson.

Both their companies shuttered in 2016.

IBEX Construction Company and owner Andrew Frankl, 68, were also charged for refusing to pay contractors more than \$1 million for completed work, including the "Oculus" at the World Trade Center.

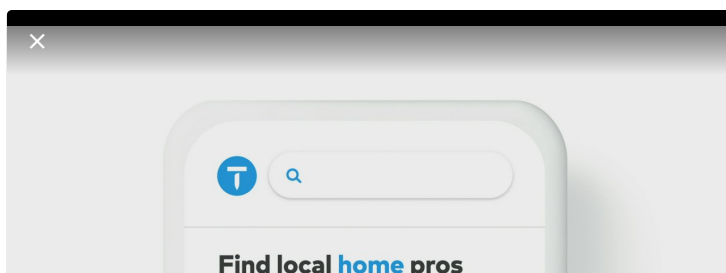
Authorities couldn't track down Branagh or Frankl, who allegedly checked himself into an undisclosed rehab facility to deal with "I guess personal issues," said Assistant District Attorney Beard. A warrant was issued for both defendants.

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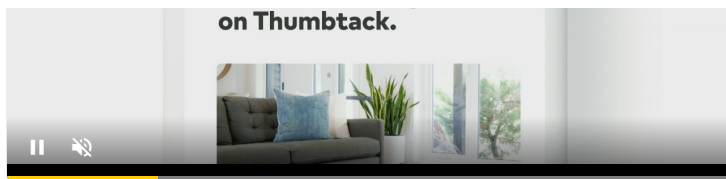
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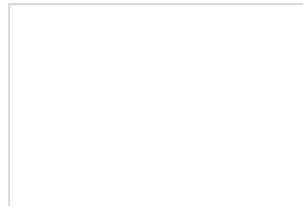
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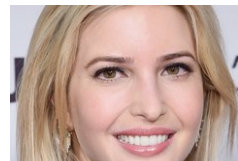
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