

BOX
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**Examining, Board of
Plumbers**

1913, Sept.-Dec.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Sept. 19, 1913. *191*

Hon. A.L. Kline,
Mayor, City of New York.

S i r:- In re William Hoffman:

I have your communication of the 17th inst., asking for
a report on the enclosed communication.

I beg to report as follows:

I. The certificate of William Hoffman, 1681 Madison Ave.,
Borough of Manhattan, was issued July 10, 1907, over five(5)
years before the present Board appointed by Mayor Gaynor to
clean up the situation took office.

II. There is no doubt that the certificate of William
Hoffman was obtained by fraud as alleged in the complaint,
although not in the particular manner alleged.

III. This Board under date of August 21, 1913, refused
to re-issue the certificate to William Hoffman on the ground
that he had obtained it by fraud.

IV. We have not received any communication from the
gentlemen signing the communication to you regarding Hoffman.

Personally I am very glad that the matter has been brought
to your attention and that you can see from this report that we
have already taken proper action in a case of this kind.

Very respectfully yours,

Herbert de Roode
ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Sept. 29, 1913. *191*

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

I have your circular letter of the 25th inst., addressed to our chairman in regard to our budget estimate for 1914.

Under date of July 15, I wrote the late Mayor Gaynor as per the enclosed copy, explaining the reason for the apparent increase in our budget of about \$1400.00 over the present year. This, however, will probably be made up by extra fees charged under the new law, but which fees are turned into the City Treasury. The late Mayor Gaynor in a letter date July 17, as per copy attached, approved the proposed budget and the plan of re-organization.

I wish particularly at this time to call to your attention the proposed increase of \$300.00 in the salary of our clerk, stenographer and typewriter, who is virtually our secretary and manages the work of the office. She is extremely valuable and has worked here under very difficult circumstances and has been loyal to what we have been trying to accomplish. She has worked here without increase in salary for the past five(5) years.

As I wrote Mayor Gaynor, a reduction of even a few hundred dollars in our modest budget--as we ask for but \$7400.00--means a great deal more to us than the reduction of many thousands in the case of the larger departments.

Hoping that this is a satisfactory answer to your letter of the 25th instant, I am, with great respect,

Very truly yours,

Herbert H. Roode
 ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Hon. A.L. Kline,
 Mayor, City of New York,

(COPY)

July 15, 1913.

My Dear Mr. Mayor:-

As it is time for us to prepare our budget estimate for next year I want to suggest a proposed permanent organization of the Examining Board of Plumbers.

In the first place, we cannot expect the members of the Board, nor is it desirable that they should, to give much time to the detail of the work. Under the new law they cannot receive more than \$25.00 per month and I think their function should be to prepare the examinations, rate the papers and exercise general supervision.

In view of the power given the Board in the matter of revoking licenses and supervision over the plumbers there will undoubtedly arise legal questions and I think it desirable, as in all cases where city officials come in contact with the rights and privileges of citizens, that they should have a legal adviser. My suggestion is, that a deputy assistant corporation counsel be permanently assigned to the Board and to him also the Board could look for general superintendence. I suggest deputy assistant corporation counsel as these are selected through competitive examination and I think that in the long run such selection will be more likely to give a perfectly trustworthy person. In addition to the one clerk or secretary that we now have I think that there should be one stenographer and one junior clerk or office boy.

In the past the work of the Board has been very slipshod owing to insufficient clerical assistance.

I think the proposed plan would establish the Board on an honest and efficient basis and I trust it may have your approval.

I am enclosing a formal communication to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment relative to a budget allowance along the lines of this proposed re-organization and if the re-organization meets with your approval I hope you will see fit to recommend our modest budget allowance to the Board of Estimate.

Faithfully yours,

Hon. Wm. J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

(Signed) Albert deRoode

- COPY -

July 17, 1913. d

Dear Mr. de Roode:

Your letter of July 15th, with your proposed project for the Examining Board of Plumbers, is at hand, and it seems to be all right. There must be someone in or of the Board who will do the work, or see that it is done, and your suggestion of an Assistant Corporation Counsel is well devised.

Ver truly yours,

(Signed) W. J. Gaynor

M a y o r.

Albert de Roode, Esq.,
Examining Board of Plumbers,
149 Church Street,
New York.

(COPY)

July 15, 1913.

Honorable-

The Board of Estimate & Apportionment,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

In behalf of the Examining Board of Plumbers I beg to submit our budget estimate for the ensuing year and to attach hereto the formal data required under your rules.

This data should not be understood as a basis for our requests as the re-organization of this Board has made past details of expenditures not particularly enlightning.

Our proposed budget is as follows:

Compensation of the members of the Board - - - - -	\$900.00
Clerk, Stenographer & Typewriter(competitive class)	1500.00
Stenographer - - - - -	900.00
Junior Clerk - - - - -	400.00
Deputy Assistant Corporation Counsel assigned to the Board - - - - -	-2500.00
	<u>\$ 6,200.00</u>

Office Supplies - - - - -	\$250.00
Office Equipment - - - - -	150.00
Telephone Service - - - - -	175.00
Contingencies - - - - -	100.00
Car Fare - - - - -	25.00
Expense of conducting examinations - - - - -	500.00
	<u>1,200.00</u>
	<u>\$7,400.00</u>

This is an increase of \$1,400.00 over our budget for last year but this increase so far as the city is concerned is only apparent for under the provisions of the new amendment to the charter--Chapter 755, Laws of 1913-- we will charge \$5.00 for each certificate issued and figuring on a minimum of 300-certificates issued a year this will be an additional income to the city of \$1,500.00. This amount however is turned in to the City Chamberlain and is not available for our use.

In addition to this sum we will charge applicants an initial fee of \$5.00 and for subsequent examinations the cost thereof. From the sums thus charged under the terms of the law the Board may only deduct the amount expended for supplies and materials used in conducting the examinations, so that there will be a considerable sum of money turned over to the City Chamberlain thus reducing the cost to the city of our Board.

On the basis of the first six (6) months of this year our total receipts for one year should be \$4,000.00. From this amount the expense of supplies and materials to be deducted should be \$1,200.00, leaving a balance of \$2,800.00 turned into the City Chamberlain, reducing the actual cost to the city under the proposed budget to \$4,600.00.

There will be a great increase I expect in the work of the Board the coming year owing to the co-operation of the Bureaus of Buildings in prosecuting unlicensed plumbers and the action of this Board in revoking fraudulent certificates.

If the work of this Board is worth anything to the city it should certainly be worth the amount we ask. While the general tendency is to prune estimates, in our estimate we have made no allowance for possible pruning. We have simply asked for the smallest amount on which we can expect decently to do the city's work effectively. A reduction of a few hundred dollars in our estimate means a greater per cent of reduction in the case of so small a budget as ours than a reduction of many thousands in budgets for many other and larger city departments.

Regarding the increase in the compensation of the clerk to \$1,500.00, I would say that I think this is really justified because Miss Janet A. Glendinning has been with the Board now nearly seven (7) years. Her last increase in salary was in 1908. She has served under unusually trying circumstances and I have been unable to find that she has been in any way connected actively in the corruption which has existed under the previous Boards. She is efficient in the work of the office and I think she is fairly entitled to the increase. Under the proposed plan of re-organization she will practically be secretary to the Board and have charge of the office routine.

Respectfully,

(Signed) James M. Morrow

CHAIRMAN.

OFFICE
EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
CITY OF NEW YORK
149 CHURCH STREET

NEW YORK, Oct. 8th, 1913
191

Mr. David Morton,
159 W. 31st St.,
City.

Dear Sir:-

At a meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers held on Oct. 1st., 1913, it was resolved in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 755, Laws of 1913, to refuse to re-issue your certificate No 3085 , for the following reason:-

~~False statement in your application for examination.~~

~~Fraud in passing your examination.~~

Because you are no longer actually engaged in business.

We enclose herewith application for a new examination in case you wish to take one.

Yours truly,

Albert deKrode
ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

*Morton has never gone out
of the plumbing business
dissolved partnership He has been a master
plumber for 13 years*

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,

149 Church Street,

New York,

Oct. 9, 1913.

191

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
 Secretary to the Mayor,
 City Hall, N.Y. City.



My dear Mr. Beaty:-

May I call to your attention on behalf of the chairman of this Board, Hon. James M. Morrow, the case of a relative of his, a sergeant? The name of the man is William Irving, Shield No. 447. He has been on traffic duty for eight and one-half years and has been transferred to the 66th Street precinct. He was appointed patrolman May 21, 1896, promoted to sergeant Apr. 14, 1909. He wants a transfer back to the traffic precinct A- B or C.

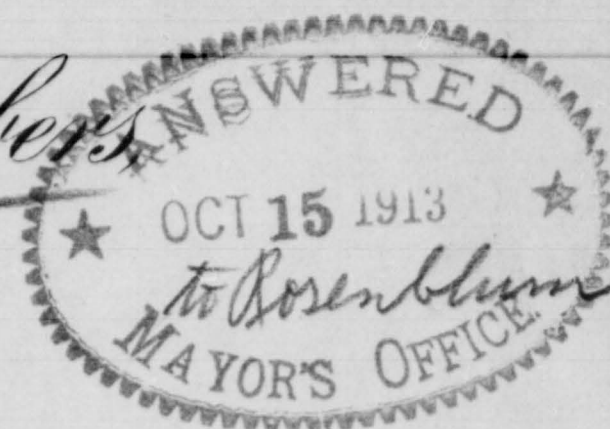
The reason I call this to your attention is, that Mr. Morrow, our chairman, has been giving so much of his time without compensation to the work of this Board that I felt if it were possible to have this favor granted him that the Mayor might not be loath to do so. Then again, Sergeant Irving was for a long time connected with the City Hall squad, I believe, and would like to get back, and it seemed to me best that the request for such transfer back to the City Hall should come through City Hall channels.

I have no personal interest in the case and Mr. Morrow hesitated somewhat about writing himself and asked me what to do and I said I would write to you and if you thought it advisable to suggest anything of this sort to his Honor that you would tell me frankly. Of course if it is not the right thing Mr. Morrow does not want it and I hope you will be frank with me.

Very truly yours,

Herbert de Roope

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers
City of New York
149 Church Street



New York, Oct. 14, 1913. *191*

Mr. Julian Beaty,
 Secretary to the Mayor,
 City of New York.

Dear Sir: in re NATHAN ROSENBLUM.

This man has failed twice on his practical test in wiping joints. Under our rules, he would not be eligible for a new examination until six months after his last failure. The man who fails in his first practical test may take the second test the following month. If he fails in this, it seems to us fairer that he should wait six months in order to practice up on his manual workmanship before being called upon to pay another fee. Our practical test is simple, such as any skilled mechanic should be able to do.

I suspect there is something wrong with this man, for before coming for examination he got Mr. *McCoey* to write a letter to the Board and later on his alderman came around.

If the Mayor so wishes however, we shall be glad to wave our rule and let him take the practical examination in November when our next test will be held.

Very truly yours,

Samuel de Roode
 ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 15, 1913. *191*

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:- In re MEYER EDELSTEIN:

Replying to yours of the 14th inst, this man took an examination on June 23 last and failed. He later made application on one of our regular forms for re-examination and was advised that he would be notified when the next regular examination to which he was entitled to be admitted would be held. This examination is to be held on the 21st of this month and notification of it has been sent to Mr. Edelstein. I imagine the man is a little bit impatient but he has made no inquiry of us since making the written application for re-examination.

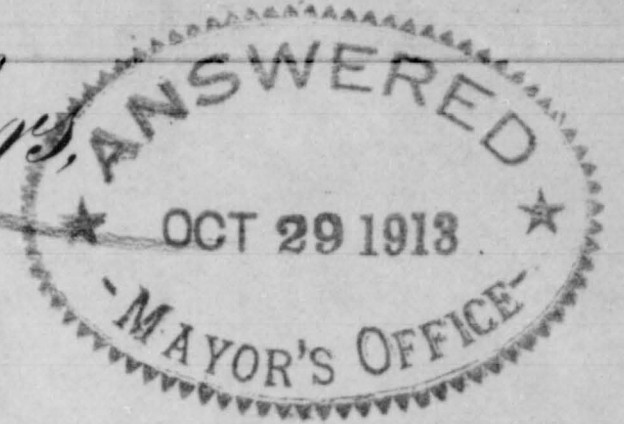
Under the old board they used to hold examinations every other day for only two or three applicants. Our practice is to hold examinations once a month with all the applicants assembled together, this being a much less suspicious method. Probably Edelstein has in mind the old practice.

Yours very truly,

Albert de Rudder
ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Is be returned to files of
Mayor's Office

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,



New York, Oct. 21, 1913. *191*

Hon. A.L. Kline,
M a y o r,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to transmit herewith a report concerning my work of reorganization and cleaning out the Examining Board of Plumbers, to which work I had been selected by the late Mayor Gaynor.

The work has taken the major portion of my time for about nine months at a nominal compensation of Five Dollars a day. I did this because I felt flattered at the trust reposed in me by the late Mayor Gaynor, and having gotten my teeth into the work I did not want to let go until it was finished. I think affairs are now in such shape that I may withdraw.

May I express to you my appreciation of the support which you have given me in this work.

Respectfully yours,

SPECIAL ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL.

Four hundred and fifty(450) plumbers' certificates have been cancelled because of fraud of one sort or another by the Examining Board of Plumbers which Mayor Gaynor appointed to succeed the old Board which he removed on December 17, 1912.

Mayor Gaynor selected Mr. Albert de Roode as Special Assistant Corporation Counsel to conduct the investigation as to the fraud previously in vogue under former Boards and to re-organize the work of the plumbing Board. Mr. de Roode has just made a report to Mayor Kline in which the result of the ten(10)months of his work is set forth.

The work accomplished under the new Board has been not only the cancelling of fraudulent licenses but the establishing of fairer methods of examination and securing the passage of new laws. Candidates now may answer questions in any language they choose and if unable to write may dictate their answers to a stenographer. Theoretical questions have been done away with and the examinations relate to the practical matters with which a plumber is supposed to be familiar.

Among the numerous fraudulent methods of getting certificates which Mr. de Roode discovered in the course of the investigation are the following:

- I. The applicant would put up a sum of money ranging from three hundred to one thousand dollars with an outside person for alleged "instruction". He would then be given a list of answers to a set of twenty--or sometimes a few more--questions which he had learned by heart. He would also be instructed in the

drawing of a plan. When he appeared for examination he would get the same plan upon which he had been instructed, and the same set of questions the answers to which he had learned by heart.

II. In some cases an applicant deficient in the practical work of wiping a joint would find in a little room where the wiping was to be done a joint already wiped for him, which, after a little while, he would substitute for his own deficient work.

III. Applicants who had actually passed their examination were not given certificates until they had paid tribute to the members of the board outside of the office, or had in some cases deposited sums of money ranging from \$75. to \$300. in a drawer in a desk in an inside office of the board, this drawer being known as the "kitty". It was claimed in some cases that this tribute was voluntarily made in appreciation of the fact that the members of the board were underpaid by the city.

IV. Applicants were asked to contribute money to the political association of which one member of the Board was "standard bearer" and on making such contribution were assisted in passing.

V. Applicants favored either because of cash contributions or political influence, or, rarely, friendship, were allowed to sign plans already drawn out for them or their plans were altered after they had drawn them. Sometimes they were allowed to copy their examination from a correct plan and set of answers placed in front of them.

VI. Applicants for one consideration or another, chiefly a valuable one, were instructed after office hours by members of the board, sometimes in the shops of the members or sometimes in the back rooms of saloons in the vicinity of the office of the board. Upon taking the examination they would find the same set of questions and plan given them in which they had been thus coached.

VII. In other cases applicants would pay money to outside parties and thereafter would be given certain favors in the way of higher marks than they were really entitled to.

Oct 25/13.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 21, 1913. *191*

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
Sec'y to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 20th inst., regarding a complaint from Miss Belle Barnie as to the license of James Johnston.

I beg to advise you that the Board at a meeting held on October 17, prior to the receipt of your letter of October 20,, authorized the issuance of a certificate to Mr. Johnston. In the number of certificates submitted to us for re-issue the certificate of Mr. Johnston was mis-placed and only recently came to light, which accounts for his delay in receiving it,

Yours truly,

Wentworth

ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

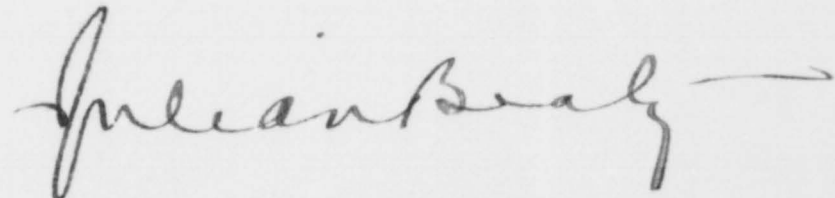
CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 20, 1913. v

Dear Sir:

I am directed by the Mayor to forward you the enclosed letter from Miss Belle Barnie, alleging that the license of one James Johnston has been unjustly revoked. The Mayor asks that you investigate this complaint and advise him of the facts.

Very truly yours,



Secretary.

Albert De Roode, Esq.,
Examining Board of Plumbers,
149 Church Street,
Manhattan.

Encl.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers
City of New York
149 Church Street,

FORM M 3403-13 1000

New York, Oct. 23, 1913. *191*

William B. Crowell, Esq.,
Assistant Corporation Counsel,
Office of the Mayor, N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

Regarding your communication of the 22nd inst., in re Harry Voletsky, I have to advise you that under date of Oct. 17, 1913, the Board directed the re-issue of this certificate.

I am quite familiar with the record in this case. The evidence before the Board seemed reasonable conclusive as to Voletsky's fraud. He was given a hearing before the Board and the Board still felt convinced as to the fraud. It seemed that his record since becoming a master plumber had been so creditable and so many representations, including those of the Building Department, Brooklyn, were made as to his character, that we felt it was wiser to err on the side of leniency and so changed our action.

Personally, I still believe he went through improperly. Voletsky has been particularly active in getting false affidavits against me but I have to be patient and charitable in these matters and because of his personal attacks upon me I did not wish to take advantage of my position and recommend the definite refusal of his license.

Very truly yours,

Albert de Roda
Per J. R.

Telephone 1428 E. N. Y.

Voletsky & Jarcho, Inc.
Plumbing Contractors
1538 Pitkin Ave.

ALL AGREEMENTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON
STRIKES, INTERFERENCE, ACCIDENTS AND OTHER UNAVOID-
ABLE DELAYS BEYOND AND OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL.
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Brooklyn, N. Y. Oct. 9/13

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF KINGS
CITY OF NEW YORK

Harry Voletsky, being duly sworn deposes and says:- That he is a citizen of New York State and of the United States, that he resides at premises 80 Amboy street, in the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York, that he is now engaged in the trade business and calling of master and employing plumber at premises 1538 Pitkin avenue in said Borough and City; that he has been engaged as such master or employing plumber in said Borough continuously for about a period of seven years; that prior to the entering of deponent into the said trade and business of master or employing plumber he, the said deponent did apply for a certificate of competency as such master or employing plumber from the then duly and legally constituted and appointed examining Board of Plumbers of the City of New York which Board at the time of said application was duly authorized by the laws of the State of New York to receive said application and further duly authorized by law to examine deponent as such applicant and further duly authorized as a result of said examination to determine whether or not said deponent was competent to carry on the said business, trade or calling of employing or master plumber in the City of New York; that the said application accompanied by the legal fee of \$5.75 as demanded by said Examining Board was paid to said Board by deponent whereupon and as a result of said

Voletsky & Jarcho, Inc.
Plumbing Contractors
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Brooklyn, N. Y. Oct. 9/13

consideration and the filing of said application the said Board did duly examine or cause to be examined, this deponent whereupon and as a result of said examination the said Examining Board of Plumbers did while legally and duly constituted, issue to this deponent a certificate of competency, which as a result of said examination, declared that deponent was competent to carry on the trade business or calling of Employin g Master Plumber; That thereafter the deponent did establish himself in the said plumbing business as hereinbefore mentioned and during the seven continuous years to date the deponent has carried on an extensive plumbing business, doing plumbing work in the Borough of Brooklyn and Queens to the amount of about \$700,000.; that to the best of deponent's knowledge and belief there was never filed against this vast amount of plumbing, a single violation of the plumbing laws showing improper work; that deponent at the present time is still actively engaged in the said plumbing business; that during the year 1913 a law was enacted in this State, providing that all such certificates of competency already issued should be reissued and endorsed by the now existing Examining Board of Plumbers of the City of New York; that as a result of a letter from said Examining Board and upon their demand this deponent did send to the said Board his certificate of competency herein before mentioned; that thereafter this deponent did personally request the reissuing of said certificate of competency whereupon the said Board by and through Albert de Roode

Telephone 1128 E. N. Y.

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Brooklyn, N. Y.

professing to be and assuming the office of "Attorney for the Board" did refuse to reissue said certificate of competency of said deponent on the ground of "Fraud in passing your examination"; that thereafter and on or about Sept. 9, 1913 this deponent did receive a letter purporting to be from the said Board and signed by the said Albert de Roode, informing deponent that the said certificate would not be reissued on said ground of a fraud in passing your examination:

That the deponent being further sworn says that he did not commit any fraud in any way whatsoever in the securing of the said original certificate; that he did personally enter said original examination for said certificate and perform all the tests demanded by the Examining Board; that the statement of the present Board herein quoted is absolutely false as it reflects upon deponent; that the deponent believes he was then and is still thoroughly competent to carry on said plumbing trade and believes that the present Examining Board of Plumbers is acting unjustly and unreasonably in refusing to reissue deponent's certificate of competency.

-----*Harry Voletsky*-----

State of New York.
County of Kings.

On this ninth day of October, 1913, before me personally came Harry Veletsky, to me known and known to me to be the individual who signed the above instrument in my presence and he thereupon swore that he had read the contents of said instrument and that the same is true to his own knowledge except as to those matters stated upon information and belief and as to those matters he believes it to be true, and he further swore that he is the same individual named in the said instrument.

Joseph S. Byrne
Commissioner of Deeds
City of New York Residing in Brooklyn

O. L. RICHARD, President.
ARNOLD KOHN, Vice President.
W. L. BURCKETT, Second Vice President.



A. I. VOORHIS, Cashier.
JOHN KNEISEL, Asst. Cashier.
H. C. RICHARD, Asst. Cashier.

THE STATE BANK

BROWNSVILLE BRANCH.

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN,

WILLIAM B. ROTH, MANAGER

BROOKLYN, N.Y. October 6, 1913.

Hon. Adolph Klein,
Mayor of New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

It gives me pleasure to state that Messrs. Voletsky and Jarcho have been doing business with this bank, as well as with me personally, and that I have had the opportunity of having their work inspected very frequently; and in every instance, without any exception, the same turned out entirely satisfactory. I regard them as perfectly honest and reliable mechanics in their line of business.

Very truly yours,

William B. Roth
Manager.

WBR/P

Moses Ginsberg

WITH: MAX KOBRE'S BANK

PITKIN & STONE AVENUES

Brooklyn, N. Y. Oct. 8th., 1913.

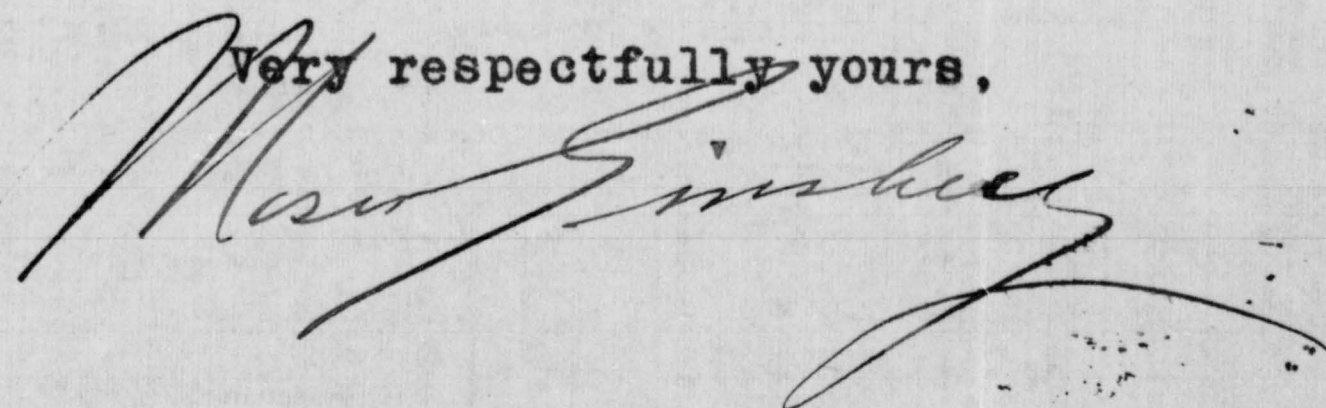
Hon. Ardolph Klein,
Mayor of the City of New York,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The firm of Voletsky & Jarcho have just completed a contract for plumbing work in my new home on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn. I have had the plumbing examined by many plumbers who pronounced the same in excellent condition. They are also under contract with me to do additional plumbing in other houses. From my personal knowledge and also from their reputation in the neighborhood, I know that they are very competent plumbers in every respect, and thoroughly honest and reliable.

It would give me great pleasure to personally recommend them as very competent plumbers for plumbing work of every description.

Very respectfully yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Moses Ginsberg', with a long, sweeping underline.

SAMUEL SASSULSKY
REAL ESTATE AND BUILDER
312 HOPKINSON AVE.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., October 7th 1913

Hon. Ardolph Klein,
Mayor of New York,
City Hall, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

In testifying to the honesty, character, and ability as a Master Plumber of Mr. Harry Voletsky, of Mess. Voletsky & Jarcho, I am simply stating a truth that is apparent to all those who are acquainted with him.

He has done work for me for the past seven years amounting to about \$50,000 in strict accordance with the sanitary rules of the various Departments having jurisdiction over same. I would not hesitate to recommend him or his firm to any builder or owner having plumbing work to do, since I am positive that the same would be performed in a highly satisfactory manner.

Very respectfully yours,

Samuel Sassulsky

LEE LEVY
PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

A. LEVY
VICE-PRESIDENT

MORRIS L. BAIRD
SECRETARY

LEVY & BAIRD
INCORPORATED

Builders and Real Estate Investors

2027 BATH AVENUE, BATH BEACH

TELEPHONES { 481 { BATH BEACH
 969 {

REMOVED TO TEMPLE BAR,
44 COURT ST., ROOM #517
TEL MAIN 7334

REAL ESTATE
BOUGHT, SOLD
OR EXCHANGED

MONEY LOANED
ON FIRST AND SECOND
MORTGAGE

BROOKLYN, N. Y., October 7th, 1913.

Hon. Arddolph Klein,
Mayor of the City of New York,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

It affords us great pleasure to testify that Mr. Harry Voletsky of the firm of Voletsky & Jarcho, is known to us personally as an honest and upright individual and a most competent Master Plumber. His firm has just completed a contract for us amounting to \$17,500 and is now under contract for another large operation.

In conclusion, we might say, that he is worthy of the confidence of all those with whom he may come in contact and any consideration you may grant him would be but just recognition of his reputation and worth.

Respectfully yours,

LEVY & BAIRD

Morris L. Baird

Secy.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
New York. Oct. 22, 1913. *191*

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 21st inst., and in compliance with the request therein contained have asked the Bureau of Buildings to send a copy of the plumbing code to Mr. C.W. Anderson of Westfield, N.J.

Very truly yours,

Wm. B. Rode

ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 24, 1913. *191*

Dear Mr. Beaty:

I am enclosing herewith the quarterly report as suggested in our conversation yesterday and also a little press item as a Monday story in case it is not too late.

Faithfully yours,

Albion de Rouen
P. J. G.

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 25, 1913. *191*

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
 Secretary-
 Mayor's Office.

Dear Mr. Beaty:-

I have your letter of the 24th inst., enclosing a letter from Richard M. Byrne regarding two plumbers--Rebmann and Tow. Both these certificates were refused re-issue because of what seemed to the Board conclusive evidence of fraud in passing the examination. The evidence in general consisted of the identity of their answers ~~to questions~~ and the correspondence of plumbing plans with the answers and plans of those whom we had absolute evidence went through fraudulently.

Our method was this- having obtained admissions from one person who went through fraudulently we compared his plan and questions with others and where we found more than a reasonable degree of similarity we thoroughly investigated the matter, giving every man the benefit of a doubt, and then reached a conclusion. We have probably gone over something like 500 or 600 cases and of course in doing this the members of the Board became more or less expert in detecting the fraud.

Mr. Byrne has been over to see me twice I think regarding various plumbers and I have explained to him carefully the general nature of the evidence upon which we acted. I did not feel that it was wise in every particular instance, especially where lawyers intimated that they would take court proceedings in case we refused to re-issue certificates, to disclose our evidence in advance.

In the case of Tow, for instance, his examination is partly filled out in his own handwriting and the rest of it is filled out by one of the examiners in a simulated handwriting, yet when Tow was down to see me he insisted that he wrote it all out himself.

The Board has taken the position that where a certificate is refused re-issue the applicant may take a new examination and if he shows that he is competent then his certificate will be re-issued. We are not, therefore, debarring these men from a livelihood in any way unless they should fail in their examination, and our examinations now are far more practical than the examinations which these men formerly passed. Both of these men could answer very glibly questions as to the areas of pipes, the weight of columns of water, questions as to hydrostatics and

Letter to Julian Beaty, Esq.

Page 2

so on, so they should have no fear of passing our practical examination in which they are asked only questions relating to their business. It seems to me, therefore that the easiest way is for these people to take a new examination.

There are so many of these cases that it is sometimes embarrassing, after the Board as a body has viewed the evidence of some forty or fifty other papers in connection with the matter and reached a conclusion, to recall just the precise point which in the mind of each member of the Board determined their judgment.

Very truly yours,

Wm. de Roode

(enc.)

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,
New York, _____ Oct. 14, 1913. *191*

Mr. Julian Beaty,
Secretary to the Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:

in re E. REBMAN.

I have your communication of the 11th regarding this man. He was rejected in our June practical test for insufficient skill in wiping joints. The character of this man may be judged from his belief that he was rejected because he was a Jew, and in the same breath asking for favors because he is not one.

Under our rules, a man was eligible for a second examination one month after he had failed, and he is now eligible in case he wishes to apply.

As to the Jew part of his complaint, let me say that there were 41 taking the practical test in June. Of these, 14 failed and of the 14 who failed only five seemed to be Jewish from their names. Of the 27 who got through, 12 seemed to be Jewish.

Yours truly,

Must de Roope

ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 30, 1913. 191

Julian Beaty, Esq.,
 Sec'y to the Mayor.

Dear Mr. Beaty:-

Regarding your letter of the 29th inst., I find that by action of the Board taken on October 23, the certificate of Mr. Gardner was directed to be re-issued and I am advised by our Secretary that the certificate re-issued was mailed to him yesterday, October 29th. His was a case in which the circumstances indicated fraud but my recollection is that he was down here and I brought the matter for re-consideration by the Board and they decided that the evidence in his case was perhaps not strong enough and that he might be given the benefit of a doubt. Mr. Gardner has had his license for six(6) years, not for ten(10) years.

As to Joseph Layman, I am personally familiar with this case. Under the Board removed by Mayor Gaynor he received his certificate. He had paid money for "instruction" to a notorious "go-between" of the former Board and part of this money came into the hands of two of the members of the Board. I have this in a sworn confession from one of the members of the Board. The go-between is now under indictment for bribery. Layman's certificate was revoked and we allowed him to take a new examination. He has taken this examination and has failed miserably. He is entitled to take another examination shortly and in the meantime the Board has arranged so that his work will not be interfered with by the Building Department. Layman's case is a clear case of fraud. We have actual proof of the payment of money for his license.

Yours truly,

Albert W. Rood

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Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Nov. 7, 1913. *191*

Robert Adamson, Esq.
Secretary to the Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have your favor of the 5th inst., requesting information in the case of Mr. Rocco Ricci of 2116 Richmond Road. The only Rocco Ricci whose certificate has been refused re-issue is located at 75 Carmine St., Manhattan. In his case the certificate was refused re-issue because of fraud in passing his examination. This action was taken upon the recommendation of Mr. de Roode who was familiar with the facts in the case. We have offered Mr. Ricci the opportunity to take a new examination.

Yours truly,

James M. Monahan
CHAIRMAN.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,
New York, Nov. 13, 1913. *191*

James Matthews, Esq.,
Executive Secretary,
Office of the Mayor, N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

In re JOHN FOREMAN:

By direction of Mr. de Roode, in his absence from the city, I have opened your letter of the 12th inst., addressed to him making inquiry in the above case.

As soon as Mr. de Roode returns the latter part of next week I will refer your letter to him for reply.

Yours truly,

J. A. Glavin
SECRETARY.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Nov. 21, 1913. *191*

Dear Mr. Matthews:-

I have your letter of the 12th instant and while I am no longer connected with the Board I am glad to give the Mayor information in this case with which I am familiar.

Mr. Foreman in a sworn statement in his application for a certificate stated that he had served an apprenticeship of 5-years with a certain plumber. Inquiry of this plumber showed that this statement was false and upon such falsity of statement together with the knowledge of general conditions regarding the issuance of licenses heretofore and other matters at that time in the minds of the Board, the Board decided under the discretion given it by the new law to refuse to re-issue the certificate to Mr. Foreman for false statement in his application. There is no hardship to Mr. Foreman if he is a competent plumber in this refusal to re-issue his certificate, because the Board will allow him to take a new examination.

In this connection I might mention that in a case just decided in the Second Division our right to refuse to re-issue for false statement was upheld by the courts.

Yours very truly,

Albert de Rooze
Per J. G.

James Matthews, Esq.,
 Executive Secretary,
 Office of the Mayor.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
New York, Dec. 1, 1913. *191*

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the
28th ult., in regard to Mr. Joseph R. Spellman.

The Board will have a meeting on Wednesday next,
when I will present Mr. Spellman's case to it and I have no
doubt action favorable to Mr. Spellman taking another examina-
tion will be taken.

Respectfully yours,

James M. Morrow
CHAIRMAN. *Per J. G.*

James Matthews, Esq.,
Executive Secretary,
Office of the Mayor.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
 MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 149 Church Street,

New York, Dec. 4, 1913. *191*

James Matthews, Esq.
 Executive Secretary,
 Office of the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 2nd inst., enclosing anonymous letter protesting against the payment of \$5.00, the examination fee for inspector of plumbing, I beg to say, that the authority of the Board in charging this fee is found in Chapter 755, Laws of 1913, which reads as follows:

"5. To charge and collect from each person applying for examination a sum not to exceed five dollars for each examination made by the board, either for master plumber or inspector of plumbing, and to charge and collect the further sum of five dollars upon the issuance of a certificate,
 * * * * *

When the subject of the examination for inspector of plumbing was brought up by the Municipal Civil Service Commission Mr. de Roode went very thoroughly into the matter with President Gallagher and Mr. Murray, Examiner, and the decision reached was that the fee should be paid before the candidates entered upon the examination.

Within the past two days 282-men have called and paid the fee and while some have protested the majority have been amenable to the law as soon as it was made clear to them.

Respectfully,

James M. Morrow
 CHAIRMAN.

743.47

Nov. 28/13

To the Honorable
Mayor Kline

Dear Sir

Just a few lines to.
Ask your Honor to
help us Men that are
taking the next
examination for Plumber
Inspector. We have received
a Notice that We have to
go in under a practice
test on Dec the 9th/13
at Pratt Institute but
they want each Applicant
to pay \$5 Dollars for this
(over)

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,

New York, Dec. 5, 1913. *191*

James Matthews, Esq.,
Executive Secretary,
Office of the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., enclosing an anonymous communication in which it is alleged that Lester B. McClure of 1787 Amsterdam Ave., Manhattan, who holds a plumber's license has not had proper experience.

It is true that Mr. McClure holds a master plumber's certificate issued to him in 1908 which has been re-issued by this Board after careful investigation on the part of Mr. de Roode.

I am having an investigation made of the claim that is made of this man McClure not having had proper experience and will report to you further the result of such investigation.

Yours truly,

James M. Morrow

CHAIRMAN.

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Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York,
149 Church Street,
New York, **MUNICIPAL BUILDING**
 Dec. 20, 1913. *191*

James Matthews, Esq.,
 Executive Secretary,
 Office of the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of November 28th in regard to Joseph R. Spellman, I beg to advise that the matter of Mr. Spellmans taking another examination was duly presented to the Board and he will be notified to appear at our January examination. In this connection I may say that owing to our removal in November it was impossible to arrange for an examination that month and this month the examination for inspector of plumbing has so occupied the time of the Board as to have made the examination for master plumber out of the question.

Please assure the Mayor that Mr. Spellman's case is before the Board and it is only due to unavoidable conditions that he has not been granted the desired examination.

Apologizing for the delay in replying fully to your communication of the 28th of November, I remain-

Yours truly,

James M. Morrow

CHAIRMAN.