

Keys to Supertalls in New York City

Two persons hold keys to supertall buildings in New York City. Not politicians, lawyers, bankers, developers, planners, urban designers, architects, engineers, builders, unions, fixers, crooks, though all those celebrants may brag of their influence and prowess.

The two keyholders are designated “code specialists” in the Development Hub of the NYC Department of Buildings who examine and approve applications to construct supertalls lawfully, safely, securely, energy efficiently, with least damage to the city and its ever more squeezed inhabitants.

The specialists, Damian Titus and Shauqat Shaikh, quietly, without fanfare, apply their masterstrokes of art, science, law, decency and honor in an obscure, gray granite DoB satellite office – located in a bulky pile which also houses the New York District Attorney (nemesis of the ever more corrupt) -- assure compliance with manifold applicable laws, codes, regulations, strategies, interpretations, pleadings, rulings, directives from higher authority (for vanity, jobs, profits, careers).

No matter the vulgar lubrication by grease, fund-raisers, dinners, yacht trips, Ivy League Clubs, gyms, spas, golf courses, sexual favors, diamonds and Oysters, without signature and official approval stamp by Titus or Shaikh on every drawing of the supertalls, the supertalls don't get built other than as smarmy investment brochures peddled to credulous global investors in big pipe dreams, and assuredly, rapacious tax evaders.

Step by step, Titus and Shaikh, receive and judge, deny or approve, multiple agencies documents, zoning regulations, building codes, energy analyses, site preparation, public safety, demolition, excavation, foundation, structure, architecture, systems, tuned mass damper (“slosh tank”), permitting, inspections, site safety, signoffs, with corresponding post approvals and letters of clarifications for lashings and firings, woundings and deaths, bankruptcies and bribes, cheats and shavings.

Be careful: Invite Titus or Shaikh to a coffee, a lunch, a dinner, a gym workout, get a subpoena from the DA based on persistent tapping of DOITT which operates the city's data and telephonic network, assisted by copious undercovers permeating New York municipal, state and federal workforces, the banks, developers, unions, lawyers, architects, engineers, builders, publicists, investors.

Anonymous, 24 June 2017