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DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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CONTACT: QDA PRESS OFFICE
718-286-6315

RIKERS CORRECTIONS OFFICER CHARGED WITH BRIBE RECEIVING AND PASSING CONTRABAND TO INMATE

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) Commissioner Mark G. Peters, today announced that a Queens County grand jury has indicted a New York City Corrections Officer for accepting cash bribes in return for agreeing to supply contraband, such as cigarettes and oxycodone pills, on various occasions between August 2015 and January 2016 to an inmate housed on Rikers Island.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of taking sums of money from an inmate in return for knowingly sneaking in illegal items to a prison facility. A corrections officer's job is demanding and fraught with danger under normal circumstances. The defendant's alleged actions to circumvent the rules not only soiled the badge she wore and brought dishonor to her profession but she made her fellow corrections officers' jobs that much tougher."

DOI Commissioner Peters said, "This Correction Officer is charged with ignoring her responsibility to the City and her fellow officers, taking money to traffic contraband to the very inmates she was charged with overseeing. This arrest is the latest example of DOI's efforts to undercut the illegal and dangerous contraband markets on Rikers Island. We thank the Queens District Attorney for their partnership and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners on these important investigations."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Mey Lim, 34, of New York City. Lim is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens County Supreme Court on a 33-count indictment charging her with six counts of third-degree bribe receiving, five counts of official misconduct, six counts of second-degree receiving reward of official misconduct, five counts of second-degree promoting prison contraband, two counts of attempted first-degree promoting prison contraband, two counts of attempted third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, two counts of attempted seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, two counts of attempted fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and one count each of fourth-,fifth- and sixth-degree conspiracy. If convicted, Lim faces up to 15 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that the investigation began in August 2015 when information was received allegedly stating that Lim, who was then assigned to the George R. Vierno Center on Rikers Island, was providing an inmate at the facility with access to contraband in exchange for Western Union money payments. An undercover investigation was then commenced in which DOI investigators arranged for the inmate to provide a new back story to Lim in which DOI personnel

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would be the inmate's new contact on the outside.

In one instance, it is alleged that Lim provided the inmate with a pack of cigarettes on August 20, 2015, in exchange for $100, which was to be paid through a Western Union money transfer, non-identification pickup. The following day investigators made a Western Union money transfer transaction of $100, money which Lim picked up the following day at an authorized Western Union location.

As part of the alleged conspiracy, it is alleged that on two separate occasions, once in November 2015 and once in January 2016, Lim agreed to be paid a sum of money at the time she accepted oxycodone pills to be delivered to her for the inmate. On both occasions, Lim is alleged to have met with an individual in the vicinity of 63-14 Queens Boulevard and accepted possession of a package containing what Lim believed to be oxycodone, and a sum of cash as payment for delivering the package to the inmate. In both instances, Lim, it is charged, delivered the packages to the inmate, one of which contained one hundred pills and the other package containing 75 pills.

District Attorney Brown noted that, in all instances, the inmate surrendered the contraband to authorities.

The investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Dylan Kress, of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Corrections, under the supervision of Inspector General Jennifer Sculco.

Assistant District Attorney Karlton S. Jarrett, of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James M. Liander, Bureau Chief, Khadijah Muhammad-Starling, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Daniel J. O'Leary, Supervisor, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editor: An e-version of this press release is posted on QDA website at www.queensda.org