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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

56-2017
For Immediate Release
July 14, 2017

FORMER NYC CORRECTION OFFICER SENTENCED TO A YEAR IN JAIL FOR TAKING BRIBES TO SMUGGLE CONTRABAND INTO RIKERS ISLAND

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a former New York City Department of Correction Officer has been sentenced to a year in jail for accepting cash in exchange for bringing marijuana, alcohol and tobacco to an inmate in a Rikers Island jail.

District Attorney Clark said, "This defendant had been on the job just 10 months when he began taking bribes to smuggle in forbidden items, betraying his fellow Correction Officers and endangering staff and inmates. We will not tolerate anyone bringing in contraband, because the high profits it generates fuels violence in jail."

Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "When Correction Officers take bribes from inmates to allow contraband into the City's jails, they're violating the trust placed in them as law enforcement officers and putting their colleagues at risk by fostering a dangerous environment. DOI continues to focus on rooting out these crimes and recommending meaningful reforms that will make our City's jails safer."

District Attorney Clark said that James Brown, 46, of Queens, was sentenced today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas to one year in jail. Brown pleaded guilty to third-degree Bribe Receiving on June 1, 2017 for accepting \$700 from Dene Morris to bring the contraband to her husband, Shane Morris, who was being held in the Otis Bantum Correctional Center. On December 9, 2016, as Brown was going to work, a DOI canine detected marijuana. Brown was found to have four ounces of marijuana, tobacco and a bottle containing Patron tequila on him. The case is pending against Dene and Shane Morris.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Hayley Campbell of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Omer Wiczuk, Deputy Chief, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.