



The City of New York
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DOI ARRESTS CITY CORRECTION OFFICER ON CONTRABAND-SMUGGLING CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of a New York City Correction Officer charged with illegally bringing marijuana, vodka, rum, tobacco, and cigarettes into a detention center on Rikers Island, intending to give them to inmates in exchange for money. DOI investigated the matter and arrested the officer late last night, immediately after New York City Department of Correction (“DOC”) supervisors reported their discovery of the prohibited items, which were confiscated from the officer. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Bringing contraband into a City jail is a crime and a fundamental breach of a correction officer’s duty. An officer foolhardy enough to flout that crystal-clear rule and impair co-workers’ and inmates’ safety faces immediate arrest and criminal prosecution and throws away a good job and career opportunity.”

Correction Officer TENEYA GRIFFITH, 25, of Ozone Park, Queens, N.Y., is charged with three counts each of Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and with Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Fourth Degree, and Official Misconduct, class A misdemeanors, and related offenses. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year’s incarceration.

GRIFFITH is the 877th individual that DOI arrested this year. Additional information regarding DOI’s work and accomplishments throughout 2009 is found at the following link:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/133yearend12-31-2009.pdf>.

GRIFFITH, a Correction Officer since January 2008, was assigned to the George R. Vierno Center (“GRVC”) on Rikers Island and received approximately \$54,757 in salary and overtime pay in 2009. Her DOC employment has been terminated.

According to the criminal complaint, on December 30, 2009, inside the GRVC on Rikers Island, GRIFFITH, who was on duty, was in possession of three bags containing more than two ounces of marijuana, three clear bottles containing alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and loose cigarettes, all of which are prohibited in the City’s jails. DOI’s investigation, which is continuing, revealed that GRIFFITH intended to provide the substances to inmates in exchange for money.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schriro, Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and their staffs for their assistance.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DOC with the assistance of DOC staff. Assistant District Attorney David Porter of the Bronx District Attorney’s Rackets Bureau is assigned to the prosecution.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.