



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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**DOI ARRESTS A CITY CORRECTION OFFICER AND COOK ON CONTRABAND SMUGGLING CHARGES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of two employees of the City Department of Correction (“DOC”) – a City Correction Officer and a Cook – on charges of receiving hundreds of dollars in cash to smuggle what they believed were oxycodone pills, a narcotic, to the George Motchan Detention Center (“GMDC”) on Rikers Island. The arrests are the result of DOI undercover investigations that found the DOC employees took cash bribes, it is charged, in exchange for smuggling what they thought were narcotics into GMDC. However, the pills were actually placebos used in the covert operation to ensure no drugs were brought onto Rikers Island. The DOC employees are charged by indictments obtained by the office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, which is prosecuting the cases.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “These defendants abused their positions and collected bribes to bring contraband onto Rikers Island, flouting DOC regulations and the law, according to the criminal charges. There is no tolerance for City employees who intentionally engage in criminal conduct and jeopardize security in the City’s jails. DOI will continue to root out and stop this kind of illegal conduct.”

Following are the charges as outlined in the indictment and DOI’s investigation:

MARK HOWARD, 43, of Manhattan, is charged with two counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, two counts each of Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree, Attempted Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, and Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, class E felonies, and related charges. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

HOWARD, a Correction Officer at GMDC, has been employed at DOC since November 2006, and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$56,609. He was suspended upon arrest.

According to the charges outlined in the indictment and DOI’s investigation, in March 2011, HOWARD received \$600 from a DOI undercover investigator and delivered pills he believed were oxycodone to a recipient inside GMDC and several days later received an additional \$1,000 and smuggled purported oxycodone pills into GMDC.

Assistant District Attorney Andres Gil of the Bronx County District Attorney’s Rackets Bureau is assigned to the prosecution of HOWARD under the supervision of Thomas L. Leahy, Chief of the Investigations Division, and Stuart P. Levy, Chief of the Rackets Bureau.

GEORGE THOMPSON, 57, of Manhattan, is charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, a class A-I felony, Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree and Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, class A-II felonies, and three counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, class D felonies, three counts of Attempted Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class E felony, and related charges. Upon conviction, a class A-I felony is punishable by between eight to 20 years in prison, a class A-II felony is punishable by between three and 10 years in prison, a class D felony by up to seven years in prison, and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

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THOMPSON, who worked as a cook at GMDC, has been employed at DOC since April 2009, and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$34,898. He was suspended upon arrest.

According to the charges outlined in the indictment and DOI's investigation, THOMPSON received \$500 in January 2011 to smuggle tobacco and a small quantity of pills he believed were oxycodone into GMDC and received an additional \$500 in February 2011 and \$600 more in March 2011 to smuggle, on both occasions, numerous purported oxycodone pills into GMDC .

Assistant District Attorney Robert Caliendo of the Bronx County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau is assigned to the prosecution of THOMPSON, also under the supervision of Investigations Division Chief Thomas L. Leahy and Rackets Bureau Chief Stuart P. Levy.

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

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for DOC.

Indictments are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

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