



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #09-2012
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012**

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**DOI STATEMENT ON FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADING GUILTY TO
RECEIVING BRIBES AND BRINGING CONTRABAND INTO CITY JAIL**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the guilty plea of a former City Correction Officer to collecting cash in exchange for allowing alcohol, cigarettes, and the drug Ecstasy into the George Motchan Detention Center on Rikers Island; and for engaging in sexual contact with an inmate. The criminal conduct occurred between July 2009 and January 2010. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Arrest, prosecution, jail time, and the loss of a valuable City job is the likely end for any correction officer who receives bribes to transport contraband into the City jails. Thankfully, investigators exposed and stopped this defendant's illegal conduct and she was called to account."

CLARA ESPADA, 41, of Manhattan, N.Y., was arrested Wednesday, March 7, 2012, and pleaded guilty today to Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Forcible Touching, a class A misdemeanor. Under the law, an inmate is incapable of consenting to a sexual relationship with a correction officer. Later this month, ESPADA is expected to be sentenced as part of the plea agreement to six months incarceration followed by three years of probation.

ESPADA began employment at the City Department of Correction ("DOC") in December 2004, was assigned to the George Motchan Detention Center as a Correction Officer, and received an annual salary of approximately \$76,488. She was placed on modified duty, prohibited from inmate contact, in June 2011, the same month the investigation began. ESPADA resigned from DOC in February 2012.

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

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

Assistant District Attorney Maureen L. Grosdidier at the Bronx County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Rackets Bureau Chief Stuart Levy.

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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