



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS 2 CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS, 3 COOKS
A DRUG COUNSELOR AND A TEACHER'S AIDE
-- DOI combats drug smuggling in city jails --**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI") today announced the arrest of seven current and former City employees -- two Correction Officers, three Cooks, a Drug Counselor and a Teacher's Aide for allegedly smuggling drugs into City jails.

According to Commissioner Gill Hearn, on more than a dozen separate occasions these seven individuals met with DOI undercover agents and accepted bribes ranging from \$50 to \$1,200 to smuggle heroin, cocaine and marijuana into the City jail facilities in which they worked. Each investigation was initiated by information Department of Correction inmates or staff members provided directly to DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Correction. The arrests were the result of separate undercover investigations. No real narcotics reached any of the inmates.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "These defendants are examples of the ultimate betrayal of the public trust. These seven representatives of law enforcement have engaged in criminal conduct just like the people whom they were charged to watch. I applaud those who came forward to report these criminal acts. DOI will continue its investigation and its efforts to rid Rikers of drug smuggling."

The facts and circumstances surrounding each arrest are as follows:

Dante Pinnock, 36, of Brooklyn, on one occasion in February 2003 and on two occasions in March 2003, allegedly smuggled marijuana to a George Motchan Detention Center "GMDC," Rikers Island inmate and accepted a total of \$750 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate's girlfriend. Mr. Pinnock, a Substance Abuse Counselor for Rikers inmates since October 2002 who earned \$35,629 a year, was laid off in May 2003. He has been charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a Class D felony; Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a Class E felony; Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree and Criminal Sale of Marihuana in the Fourth Degree both Class A misdemeanors; and Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the Fifth Degree, a Class B misdemeanor. If convicted, Mr. Pinnock faces up to seven years in jail.

Correction Officer **Keith McFarlane**, 44, of the Bronx, on one occasion in January 2003 and on one occasion in February 2003, allegedly smuggled one ounce of cocaine to an Anna M. Kross Center (“AMKC”), Rikers Island inmate and accepted a total of \$600 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate’s girlfriend. Mr. McFarlane, a Correction Officer since August 1990, earns \$54,048 annually. He has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-II felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class C felony; Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, both Class D felonies; and Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, Mr. McFarlane faces up to life imprisonment.

Correction Officer **Gillian Guerra**, 25, of Brooklyn, on two occasions in May 2003, allegedly smuggled 2 ½ ounces of cocaine to a GMDC, Rikers Island inmate and accepted a total of \$1,600 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate’s girlfriend. Mr. Guerra, a Correction Officer since December 2002 who earned an annual salary of \$34,514, was laid off in May 2003. He has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-I felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class C felony; Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, both Class D felonies; and Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, Mr. Guerra faces up to life imprisonment.

Jose Infante, 26, of Bronx, on one occasion in April 2003 and on one occasion in May 2003, allegedly smuggled a total of 9 bags of heroin and five-eighths of an ounce of cocaine to an AMKC, Rikers Island inmate and accepted a total of \$700 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate’s girlfriend. Mr. Infante has been a Teacher’s Aide for AMKC inmates since November 1998 and earns \$ 20,329 a year. A Department of Education employee, Infante was laid off on June 30th, the day before his arrest. DOI has alerted the Special Commissioner for Investigation for the New York City School District about Infante’s arrest so the agency can alert the Department of Education. He has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class B felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class C felony; Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, both Class D felonies; and Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, Mr. Infante faces up to life imprisonment.

Joanne Wendell, age 45, of Manhattan, on one occasion in July 2002, allegedly smuggled ½ ounce of cocaine to a GMDC, Rikers Island inmate, and accepted \$400 from a DOI investigator posing as the inmate’s girlfriend. Ms. Wendell, a Cook at GMDC since December 2000 who earned an annual salary of \$27,841, was laid off in May 2003. She has been charged with Conspiracy in the Second Degree, a Class B Felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class C felony; and Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted, Ms. Wendell faces up to 25 years imprisonment.

Tracy Dailey, 32, of Queens, on two occasions in November 2002, allegedly smuggled one ounce of cocaine to an Eric M. Taylor Center (“EMTC”), Rikers Island inmate, and accepted \$600 from a DOI investigator posing as the inmate’s girlfriend. Ms. Dailey, a Cook at the EMTC since March 1999 who earned \$27,841 a year, was arrested on May 8, 2003. Ms. Dailey was charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-II felony; Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class C felony, and Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted Ms. Dailey faces up to life imprisonment.

Robert Isidore, 50, of Bronx County, on one occasion in April 2002 smuggled ½ ounce of cocaine into the Queens House of Detention (“QHD”) and accepted \$50 from a DOI investigator posing as the girlfriend of a QHD inmate. Mr. Isidore has been a DOC Cook since October 1987 and earns \$27,841 a year. He is charged with Conspiracy in the Second Degree and Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, both Class B felonies; Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and

Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, both Class C felonies, Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a Class D felony; and Attempted Promotion of Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, Mr. Isidore faces up to 25 years in prison.

These investigations were conducted by Michael Caruso, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Correction, and members of his staff including, Supervising Investigators Migdalia Figueroa, George Santiago and Octavia Hill; Correction Officer Investigators Cindy Tsui, Roger Chapelle, and Timothy Brymn; and Special Investigators Michelle Flores and William Injean.

Commissioner Hearn thanked DOC Commissioner Martin Horn and his staff, especially the Intelligence Unit and the Security personnel in each of the facilities where investigations were conducted

Correction Commissioner Martin Horn said, "We are grateful to the Department of Investigation for helping us to create a climate of lawfulness inside the City's jails. We are committed to rooting out wrongdoing wherever it exists and will continue to work closely with the Department of Investigation and the District Attorney's office. Three of the individuals targeted by this investigation have been laid off, one was previously arrested and is in custody, and the remaining two were suspended this morning."

This investigation was conducted by Assistant Commissioner and DOC Inspector General Michael Caruso and his staff, including Inspector Supervising Investigators Migdalia Figueroa, George Santiago and Octavia Hill; Special Investigator Michelle Flores, Stacey Hernandez, Maia Wade, William Injean; and Correction Officer Investigators Timothy Brymn and Cindy Tsui.

The cases of Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Guerra, Mr. Infante, Mr. Pinnock, and Ms. Dailey and are being handled by the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, Robert T. Johnson. Assistant District Attorneys Richard Best, Noreen Morriss, Wanda Perez-Maldonado, James Goward and Chris Chisson are prosecuting. The case of Ms. Wendell is being handled by the Office of the New York County District Attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau. Assistant District Attorneys Andrew Heffner and Daniel A. Schwager are prosecuting. The case of Mr. Isidore is being handled by the Office of the Queens County District Attorney, Richard A. Brown. Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. Le Melle and Joseph Brogan are prosecuting.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at 212-825-5959.***