



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #38-2003
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2003

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212)825-5931

**VETERAN NYC CORRECTION OFFICER SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR SMUGGLING COCAINE TO A RIKER'S ISLAND INMATE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI") today announced the successful conclusion of DOI's investigation of Keith McFarlane, an officer with the Department of Correction, on drug smuggling charges. McFarlane was sentenced today in Bronx Supreme Court to two to six years imprisonment.

After the sentencing, McFarlane remained in custody. McFarlane, 44, of the Bronx, pleaded guilty on July 15, 2003 to one count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, a Class C felony offense. His \$25,000 bail was revoked upon the pleading.

On Saturday morning January 25, 2003, McFarlane delivered what he believed to be about one-half an ounce of cocaine to an inmate on Rikers Island. Instead, McFarlane had been given simulated cocaine by a DOI undercover posing as a girlfriend of an inmate who wanted the contraband. McFarlane accepted \$300 to smuggle the fake drug into the inmate.

"By engaging in this type of corrupt behavior, Mr. McFarlane jeopardized the safety of officers and inmates alike," said Commissioner Gill Hearn. "I would like to thank the honest and hard-working DOC employees who provided information that led to our investigation. Additionally, the sentence facing Mr. McFarlane should send a clear message to other DOC employees who are considering engaging in this type of conduct. That message is "Don't do it." If you do, you will be investigated and prosecuted and face the stiffest penalties possible."

McFarlane, along with six other current and former City employees, was arrested by DOI on July 2 for accepting bribes from DOI undercover agents 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.

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

