



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 07-2006
nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS FOUR CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS FOR RECEIVING OVER \$55,000 IN PAID SICK LEAVE
-- They allegedly submitted forged doctors' note. Two defendants pretended to be pregnant --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), and QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN announced today the arrest of four New York City Correction Officers -- MARLYNE GONZALEZ, KAREN KATES, KIM CORBETT AND JILL HOLLOWAY -- for submitting forged notes from physicians that alleged the doctors were treating the DOC employees when they should have been at work. In total, the four received more than \$55,000 in unwarranted sick pay. Some of the defendants falsely claimed they were pregnant and needed to be on bed rest.

The four Correction Officers have been charged with varying counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument Second Degree, a Class D Felony, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, First Degree, a Class E Felony, and Falsifying Business Records, First Degree, a Class E Felony. If convicted, they each face up to seven years imprisonment.

GONZALEZ, 36, of the Bronx, a Correction Officer for four years, allegedly gave DOC at least 30 forged doctors' notes from July 2000 until January 2005 to miss approximately 230 days of work. Some of those notes falsely stated she was pregnant. GONZALEZ also allegedly submitted to DOC hospital discharge paperwork for her supposed infant, but the paperwork referred to another woman's child. As a result, she received in excess of \$34,000 in sick pay to which she was not entitled. GONZALEZ resigned from DOC in April 2005.

KATES, 37, of Manhattan, a Correction Officer for seven years, received more than \$14,800 in undeserved sick pay after she allegedly submitted forged doctors' notes, including one that stated she had been placed on complete bed rest for several months for an alleged pregnancy. In total, KATES missed 60 work days. KATES admitted to DOI investigators that she purchased the forged notes, and submitted them to the DOC. KATES' employment was terminated in October 2005.

HOLLOWAY, 35, of Brooklyn, a Correction Officer for nine years, received more than \$6,000 in undeserved sick pay after allegedly submitting forged doctor's notes from January 2005 to March 2005. In total, HOLLOWAY missed 16 days of work based on these falsified documents.

CORBETT, 36, of Brooklyn, a Correction Officer for 14 years, was paid more than \$5,000 in unwarranted sick pay for more than 20 days of work after she allegedly submitted falsified doctor's note from March 2004 through July 2005.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The outlandish schemes perpetrated by these defendants were not only corrupt but absurd. They should have learned long ago that pretending to be sick is the oldest and least successful trick in the book. And, by forging these doctors' notes, these Correction Officers essentially robbed not only the City but also New York's taxpayers."

District Attorney Richard A. Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendants cheated the City of New York out of tens of thousands of dollars by pretending to be sick or pregnant when they were not. The vast majority of Correction Officers are hard-working, dedicated public servants who take pride in their work. The defendants' alleged behavior is a betrayal of the trust of their fellow officers and taxpayers. The charges are serious and will be vigorously prosecuted."

DOI thanked DOC Commissioner Martin Horn and his staff for their cooperation, especially, Warden David Goodman Commanding Officer of the Health Management Division and Confidential Investigator Cheryl Kelly.

These investigations were conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso, and members of his staff including, First Deputy Inspector General Meera Joshi Cattafesta, Captain Vincent Valerio, and Supervising Investigator Michelle Flores. The cases are being prosecuted by the Office of the Queens County District Attorney, Assistant District Attorney Dan O'Leary, under the direction of Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, James Leander.

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 DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***