



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #054-2003
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2003**

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212)825-5931**

**2 CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS, 3 COOKS A DRUG COUNSELOR AND A TEACHER'S AIDE
ALL SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO CITY JAILS
-- DOI arrested all seven in July --**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI") announced today the successful conclusion of DOI's investigation of seven current and former City employees on drug smuggling charges. All seven pleaded guilty and received sentences that ranged from six months to up to nine years in jail. The last defendant was sentenced on September 30, 2003. All seven are no longer City employees.

The seven individuals were 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.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "By engaging in this type of corrupt behavior, these defendants jeopardized the safety of officers and inmates alike. These sentences 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."

The facts and circumstances surrounding each sentencing are as follows:

Joanne Wendell, age 45, of Manhattan, was sentenced to six months in jail and five years of probation in Manhattan Supreme Court on September 30. On one occasion in July 2002, Ms. Wendell 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 was a Cook at GMDC since December 2000 until she was laid off in May 2003.

Tracy Dailey, 32, of Queens, was sentenced to two to six years in jail in Bronx Supreme Court on September 16, 2003. On two occasions in November 2002, Ms. Dailey 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 was a Cook at the EMTC from March 1999 until her arrest May 8, 2003.

Dante Pinnock, 36, of Brooklyn, pleaded guilty and was sentenced in Bronx Supreme Court to one to three years on August 7, 2003. On one occasion in February 2003 and on two occasions in March 2003, Mr. Pinnock 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, had been laid off in May 2003.

Correction Officer **Gillian Guerra**, 25, of Brooklyn, was sentenced to three to nine years on August 5, 2003 in Bronx Supreme Court. On two occasions in May 2003, Mr. Guerra 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 had been a Correction Officer since December 2002 until he was laid off in May 2003.

Robert Isidore, 50, of Bronx County, was sentenced to 45 days in jail and five years probation in Queens Supreme Court on August 20, 2003. On one occasion in April 2002, Mr. Isidore 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 was a DOC Cook from October 1987 until his arrest.

Jose Infante, 26, of Bronx, was sentenced to two to six years on August 4, 2003 in Bronx Supreme Court. On one occasion in April 2003 and on one occasion in May 2003, Mr. Infante smuggled a total of nine 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 was a Teacher's Aide for AMKC inmates from November 1998 until he was laid off on June 30th from his job with the Department of Education.

Veteran Correction Officer **Keith McFarlane**, 44, of the Bronx, was sentenced to two to six years imprisonment in Bronx Supreme Court on July 29, 2003. He pleaded guilty to one count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, a Class C felony offense. Mr. McFarlane, a Correction Officer from August 1990 until his arrest, earned \$54,048 annually.

These investigations were 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 Injeian; and Correction Officer Investigators Timothy Brymn and Cindy Tsui.

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