



Department of Investigation

Press Release

DISTRICT ATTORNEY - OF BRONX COUNTY

Correction Officer Sent To Prison For Trying To Smuggle Drugs Into City Jail

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2000

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a former New York City Correction Officer has been sentenced to a maximum term of up to 9 years imprisonment for his involvement in a drug smuggling operation at the City jail on Rikers Island.

Richard Gordon, 34, of Queens, pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled substance in the 3rd degree following his arrest last month as a result of an undercover investigation.

Criminal Court Judge M. Sonberg sentenced Gordon to a term of 3 to 9 years imprisonment. The defendant was automatically terminated as a Correction Officer and must serve at least three years before becoming eligible for parole.

Gordon admitted that between December 30, 1999 and January 7, 2000 he smuggled a total of one ounce of simulated cocaine into the James A. Thomas Center on Rikers Island and gave the contraband to an inmate. The defendant also accepted cash payments totaling \$1,200 from an undercover Department of Investigations (DOI) agent whom he believed to be the inmate's girlfriend. The Department of Investigations set up the sting operation after receiving confidential information about corrupt activities. Gordon had been a Correction Officer since September 14, 1989.

Assistant District Attorney Richard R. Best of the Rackets Division prosecuted this case.