



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #051-99

DOI ARRESTS RIKERS CORRECTION OFFICER FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING ANOTHER OFFICER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of LESTER LEE, a Correction Officer at the Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC) on Rikers Island, for sexually abusing a female Correction Officer also assigned to RMSC, a female detention center.

According to the felony complaint filed in the case, LEE, while on duty on August 24, 1999, forcibly fondled the breasts of a female officer while holding her down on a chair in the RMSC's mail room.

LEE, 40, of Long Island, was charged with one count of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a Class D felony punishable by up to 7 years in prison.

LEE has been employed by the Department of Correction (DOC) for 15 years and earns an annual salary of \$46,248. He has been suspended without pay and faces dismissal from the Correction Department.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for DOC Michael L. Caruso and members of his staff, including DOC Captain Sharon Jones.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney James Cudden is handling the matter under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Elisa Koenderman, Chief of the District Attorney's Domestic Violence and Sex Offense Bureau.