



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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CORRECTION OFFICER ARRESTED
-- Tried to receive sexual favors from an inmate --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of ROBERT ROACH, a veteran New York City Department of Correction Officer, for attempting to receive sexual favors from an inmate.

ROACH, of Jamaica, Queens, will be charged with Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, an 'E' Felony; Attempted Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, an 'A' Misdemeanor; Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, an 'E' Felony; Official Misconduct, an 'A' Misdemeanor; Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a 'B' Misdemeanor; and Harassment in the Second Degree, a Violation. If convicted, ROACH faces up to four years in jail.

DOI began its investigation last week after learning that a female prisoner in the pre-arraignment section of the Queens Court Pens had alleged she had been sexually assaulted by two prisoners and a Correction Officer. DOI interviewed the female prisoner, as well as several witnesses of the alleged incident, who said the inmate agreed to perform oral sex on ROACH in exchange for \$20. DOI investigators questioned ROACH, who confessed to trying to receive oral sex from the prisoner. ROACH told DOI investigators that when the inmate attempted to perform oral sex on him he became nervous, told her to stop, and left the cell.

"This Correction Officer's conduct is an outrage. ROACH took advantage of his position and, in doing so, endangered the safety and welfare of other DOC employees and inmates. His actions undermine staff and inmate morale," said Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.

ROACH resigned from his \$54,000 a year job on Friday, December 5th. He had worked for DOC since May 1989.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Assistant Commissioner and DOC Inspector General Michael Caruso and members of his staff, including Supervising Investigator Migdalia Figueroa and Special Investigator William Holland. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is handling the matter.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

One of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country, DOI investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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