



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

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**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI STATEMENT ON GUILTY PLEA OF FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER
TO SMUGGLING CONTRABAND INTO CITY JAILS IN EXCHANGE FOR CASH**

Former City Correction Officer Tamar Peebles, 26, of Brooklyn, pleaded guilty today to Attempted Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree and Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree based on an indictment charging her with collecting cash from a DOI undercover investigator in January 2008 in exchange for delivering simulated drugs to an inmate at Anna M. Kross Center ("AMKC") on Rikers Island. Peebles entered her plea before Judge Steven Barrett in Bronx Supreme Court and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 20, 2009.

Peebles was one of seven City Correction Officers arrested in April 2008 after a DOI undercover investigation into bribe receiving and other offenses related to smuggling contraband into the City's jails. The other six cases are pending. The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting each of the seven defendants. DOI's original release on the matter can be found at the following link: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr34docbribes_42408.pdf.

Peebles was employed with DOC from June 2006 until May 2008 and was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$37,500.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Drug and contraband smuggling in the City jails has long been an area of focus for DOI in which we have made a significant number of arrests. Today's guilty plea is a welcome development and demonstrates that correction officers who compromise their integrity and jail safety will be held accountable. There is zero tolerance for that kind of criminal behavior. I commend DOI's investigators and the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their joint efforts on this case. And I thank those individuals from the City Department of Correction who assisted DOI with this investigation."

DOI investigations of smuggling in the City jails have resulted in 21 arrests since 2003. In July 2003, DOI arrested seven City employees, including two correction officers, on charges they smuggled drugs into the City jails in return for bribes. In 2006, DOI arrested six workers at the City jails, including three correction officers for smuggling drugs and contraband in exchange for cash. In addition to the arrest of the seven correction officers in 2008, DOI also arrested a former substance abuse counselor at Rikers Island on charges of attempting to smuggle heroin and cocaine onto Rikers.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and his staff for their assistance. The cases have been assigned to Supervising Assistant District Attorney James Goward and Assistant District Attorney Larry Hartstein, under the supervision of Chief of the Rackets Division Thomas Leahy.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General, Correctional Services Unit.

An indictment and a criminal complaint are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.