



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS TWO VETERAN SUPERVISORS WITH THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTION FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO COVER UP AN ASSAULT ON AN INMATE**
--DOI receives tip after presenting a corruption prevention lecture to correction officer recruits--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the results of an investigation that culminated in the arrest and indictment by the Bronx District Attorney's Office, of a Captain in the New York City Department of Correction (DOC), on charges that in October 2006 the Captain struck an inmate, concealed the incident by filing a false Use of Force Report, and instructed subordinates to make similar false reports about the incident. An Assistant Deputy Warden was also charged with the cover-up. The investigation began after DOI received a tip about this matter.

The charges filed today stem from an incident that took place on October 4, 2006, in which, it is alleged, CAPTAIN SHERMAN GRAHAM, 38, of Brooklyn, used unnecessary force against an inmate in the presence of a number of Correction Officer recruits during a training session on Riker's Island. GRAHAM is accused of concealing the true nature of the incident by filing a Use of Force Report that falsely indicated the inmate hit GRAHAM and that GRAHAM hit back as a means of self defense. The indictment also charges that GRAHAM directed 15 Correction Officer recruits who witnessed the incident to file reports containing similar false statements that GRAHAM was acting in self-defense. GRAHAM is charged with 16 counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E Felony; 16 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony; 16 counts of Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor and one count of Attempted Assault in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, GRAHAM faces up to four years in prison. He has been employed by the Department of Correction for 16 years and was promoted to Captain in 2001. His annual salary is approximately \$86,419.

GRAHAM's immediate supervisor, ASSISTANT DEPUTY WARDEN GAIL LEWIS, 45, of Hollis, Queens, is charged with submitting a Use of Force Report that contained the same allegedly false story that the inmate punched the Captain provoking the Captain to strike back in self defense. The indictment charges LEWIS with Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, which are both class E felonies, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, LEWIS faces up to four years in prison. LEWIS has been employed by the Department of Correction for 22 years and was promoted to her current position in 2006. Her annual salary is approximately \$92,901.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “These supervisors are not only accused of abusing their positions to cover up an inmate assault but also compelling new Correction recruits - who were undergoing training - to misrepresent the truth, a sad introduction and one not befitting the DOC. Fortunately, a DOI corruption prevention lecture spurred a tip that thwarted their scheme. These two supervisors were supposed to be setting a good example, instead these allegations show the recruits the serious consequences City employees face if they choose to participate in illegal behavior.”

Commissioner of Correction Martin F. Horn said, “If true, the alleged behavior of these two supervisors violates everything they were taught about the care, custody and control of those held in New York City jails, and it damages the well-earned reputations of our 9,000 corrections officers who work conscientiously every day and under the most challenging of circumstances to keep New Yorkers safe.”

The investigation of this matter began after DOI received a tip following an anti-corruption lecture that DOI conducted in October 2006 for new DOC recruits on the eve of their graduation from the Correction Academy. Corruption prevention lectures began in 2002 as a proactive effort by DOI to educate City employees about their obligation to report corruption and the protections afforded to employees when they do so. This fiscal year, DOI has conducted more than 350 corruption prevention lectures at a variety of City agencies. So far this year, DOI has presented six corruption prevention lectures to DOC staff members.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Inspector General for the Department of Correction Meera Joshi Cattafesta, Deputy Inspector General Daniel Alejandro, Supervising Investigator Lawrence McGugins, Assistant Inspector General James Christo and Correction Officer Investigators Jerome Corrica, Tomas Diaz and Albert Jones. The DOI NYPD Squad also assisted in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Jan Kum, from the Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, is prosecuting the cases, under the direction of Bureau Chief of the Rackets Division Thomas Leahy.

Criminal indictments are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency 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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