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### FORMER CITY CORRECTION DEPARTMENT CHIEF ANTHONY SERRA CHARGED WITH STEALING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI'S 2002 RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

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Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, announced today that new charges of grand larceny and conflicts of interest have been filed against Anthony Serra, former high ranking chief at the City Jail on Rikers Island.

A Bronx grand jury has returned a 146 count indictment charging Serra with one count of Grand larceny in the 2nd degree, a Class C felony offense, and 145 counts of Violating the Conflicts of Interest Law, a Class A misdemeanor offense. If convicted, Serra would be facing a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment on the grand larceny charge, and up to a year in jail on the conflict of interest charges. Serra could also be fined as much as \$5,000 on each of the 145 conflict of interest counts. These charges involve illegal activities that occurred between June 1, 2002 and September 30, 2002.

Robert T.  
Johnson  
District  
Attorney

District Attorney Johnson said: "The bottom line of these allegations is that the New York City Department of Correction employees and resources were improperly used for political purposes. Anthony Serra misused his position at DOC as well as his time on the clock. His actions caused numerous subordinates to take days off from work, which in turn placed a strain on manpower at Rikers Island. The Pataki campaign paid out thousands of dollars for a bogus expense, for a service that it could have received for free. Clearly the major beneficiary of this arrangement was Anthony Serra."

It is alleged that Serra stole more than \$50,000 from political campaign committees that were organized on behalf of New York State Governor George Pataki's re-election in 2002. The indictment also alleges that Serra violated the conflict of interests law in that he "entered into a business and financial relationship with Friends of Pataki Committees and received payment for performing activities in support of George Pataki's political campaigns for the Independence Party and the Conservative Party nominations for Governor of the State of New York, by designing, organizing or executing a poll watching operation, during times when he was required to perform services for the City of New York in his position as Chief of the Bureau of Management and Planning of the New York City Department of Correction."

Serra has been charged with improperly using his influence to recruit subordinates ranging from wardens, assistant deputy wardens, captains, correction officers and civilian employees of the Department of Correction, to work as "volunteers" in a poll watching operation on behalf of Governor Pataki's primary election campaigns to win the Conservative Party and Independence Party nominations for governor.

The Conflicts of Interest Law prohibits a New York City employee from asking a subordinate to do political work; work from which the official will benefit either financially or otherwise; or work that is not related to official responsibilities.

It is alleged that Serra received nearly \$200,000 from the Friends of Pataki

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