



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #84-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR ON CHARGES OF
ATTEMPTING TO BRING HEROIN AND COCAINE ONTO RIKERS ISLAND**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of JUAN DELAROSA, a former substance abuse counselor at Rikers Island, on charges of attempting to smuggle heroin and cocaine onto Rikers in February 2008. The arrest is the result of a joint investigation with the office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

DELAROSA, 56, of Far Rockaway, N.Y., was charged with Attempted Promoting of Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Attempted Promoting of Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, a class B misdemeanor. Conviction of a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and conviction of a class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to three months' incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, on February 6, 2008, DELAROSA was arrested near the entrance to Rikers Island, at 19th Avenue and Hazen Street, in Queens, on a charge of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and related offenses. At that time, 109 packets of heroin and two bags of cocaine were recovered from DELAROSA who said he was on his way to work on Rikers Island. DELAROSA was a drug counselor working for Prison Health Services, an independent contractor that provides health services to inmates.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "It's appalling that a person paid to counsel inmates against drug abuse is charged with trying to smuggle heroin and cocaine into the jail, the exact opposite of what he was paid to do. I want to thank District Attorney Brown and his staff for working with DOI to end, expose, and prosecute the charged criminal conduct of this individual."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanks City Department of Correction Commissioner Martin F. Horn and his staff for their cooperation. This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for Correctional Services and detectives from the Queens County District Attorney's Office, including Detective Fred Caravousanos. Assistant District Attorney Mark Katz is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely 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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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.