



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY-CONTRACTED NURSE AND RIKERS ISLAND INMATES CHARGED
IN CONTRABAND SMUGGLING AND BRIBERY SCHEME**

Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters announced that DOI's investigation into a bribery-and-contraband scheme involving a City-contracted nurse has also led to charges against three inmates. JEFFREY TAYLOR, a former City-contracted nurse on Rikers Island, was arrested in September 2014 on bribery, contraband smuggling, and related charges. Wednesday, February 18, 2015, TAYLOR was arraigned by indictment on similar offenses. Three inmates have also been charged with receiving contraband from Taylor while incarcerated at Rikers Island. The inmate defendants face bribery and promotion of contraband offenses for their roles in the scheme. Including Wednesday's case, since 2014, DOI's investigation into violence and smuggling at the City's jails has led to the arrests of 11 City Correction Officers, a City-contracted nurse, and the arrests of nearly three dozen inmates.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Contraband smuggling is a dangerous influence on Rikers Island, one that breeds a culture of violence and corruption in the jails and threatens the integrity of the City's Correction system. DOI will continue to expose and stop these illegal schemes."

TAYLOR, 49, of the Bronx, N.Y, was an employee of Corizon Health Inc., a private company hired to provide medical services in Rikers Island jails. He was terminated upon his arrest on September 23, 2014 in which he was charged with smuggling alcohol, tobacco and drugs into the Anna M. Kross Center ("AMKC") to be distributed to inmates. Wednesday, February 18, 2015, he was arraigned by indictment on Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree and Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, both class D felonies; and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor.

The following inmates – KEVIN LIDES, 25; HOWARD POWELL, 56, and TRENT PATTERSON, 49 – have also been charged by indictment with Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, and Bribery in the Third Degree, class D felonies.

Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

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The DOI investigation found that between May to September 2014, TAYLOR accepted at least \$2,200 in bribes to smuggle contraband into AMKC and deliver it to the three inmate defendants, who in turn arranged to pay TAYLOR through wire transfers. On at least one occasion an inmate's acquaintance supplied TAYLOR with suboxone, which is prescribed to treat narcotic addiction, to smuggle onto Rikers Island.

Commissioner Peters thanked the Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Investigator Richard Askin under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Jennifer Sculco and Senior Associate Commissioner Michael Carroll.

Assistant District Attorney Ann Lee from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case under the supervision of Larry Piergrossi and James Goward, Supervisor of the Rackets Bureau and Deputy Bureau Chief of the Rackets Bureau, respectively.

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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