



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: DIANESTRUZZI
212-825-5931

**DOI INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN ARREST OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
ON CONTRABAND SMUGGLING CHARGES AS HE TRIED TO VISIT INMATE**

MARK G. PETERS, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a private investigator who was attempting to enter the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island at around noon yesterday to visit an inmate. As part of an ongoing investigation, DOI had information that this individual had contraband and arranged for a drug-sniffing dog to screen him. The dog alerted and the individual voluntarily surrendered approximately 66 grams of K2 synthetic marijuana and approximately 24 grams of marijuana. The contraband was concealed in the individual's underwear. DOI worked with the City Department of Correction on this investigation.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This arrest is another example of DOI's focused investigation to stop contraband trafficking in our City's jails. A canine unit alerted that there were drugs on this visitor demonstrating why DOI's recommendation to place drug-sniffing dogs at entrances is critical."

MARRION-PAUL SMALL-WILLIAMS, 25, of Manhattan, N.Y. was charged early today (October 2, 2015) with Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class D felony; two counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors; and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, a violation. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration; and a violation by a fine of up to \$100.

The defendant is awaiting arraignment.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant had two clear plastic bags that each contained a dried, green leafy synthetic substance with a distinct odor and two balloons that each contained a dried green leafy substance with a distinct odor.

According to DOI's investigation, a roll of electrical tape was also found concealed in the defendant's underwear. Electrical tape is often used for wrapping contraband.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, DOC Deputy Commissioner Michael Blake, and Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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