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**DOI STATEMENT ON PRISON SENTENCE FOR FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CONVICTED
OF ACCEPTING BRIBES AND CONSPIRING TO SMUGGLE DANGEROUS CONTRABAND
INTO MANHATTAN DETENTION COMPLEX**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. today issued the following statement regarding today’s sentencing of former City Correction Officer PATRICIA HOWARD to six years in prison for accepting bribes and conspiring to distribute dangerous contraband into the Manhattan Detention Complex (MDC), including cocaine, marijuana, cellphones, and what the defendant believed to be oxycodone, among other illegal items. New York County Supreme Court Justice Melissa C. Jackson imposed the sentence late this afternoon in New York County Supreme Court.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, “This Correction Officer not only leveraged the authority her position afforded for personal financial gain, but compromised the safety of her fellow officers by engaging in this corruption. DOI remains fully committed to ending the underground contraband rings fueling violence and instability at our City’s jails. I thank the Manhattan District Attorney and his staff for their assistance in prosecuting this case and their partnership in so many DOI matters.”

District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance said, “The security of City jails is only as sound as the integrity of those who operate them. In this case, the defendant—a former correction officer—was convicted of participating in a so-called ‘Jail Shopping Network’ by smuggling dangerous contraband into the MDC, jeopardizing the safety of all who work or reside in the jail. I thank our partners in law enforcement, and in particular, DOI, for their commitment to stopping the smuggling of contraband that perpetuates a dangerous underground economy that often leads to jailhouse violence.”

HOWARD pleaded guilty on March 31, 2016 to Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, Attempted Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree. DOI worked on this investigation in partnership with the New York County District Attorney’s Office’s Public Corruption Unit, which prosecuted the case.

HOWARD, 44, of the Bronx, N.Y. began employment with the City Department of Correction (“DOC”) in July 1996 and had nearly 20 years on the job before her arrest in May 2015. During her tenure she was assigned to work in the mailroom at MDC, a post she used to further the distribution of contraband to inmates with whom she conspired. She had been suspended without pay since May 2015 before being terminated on March 31, 2016.

DOI used undercover operations and other techniques to expose the smuggling operation involving HOWARD and co-conspirators, KHALILAH MATTOCKS, 35, VELVER JEAN DAVIS, 58, and inmate TOMMY DAVIS, 56, all who were charged in the original indictment.

According to the investigation, TOMMY DAVIS would procure prison contraband for distribution to fellow inmates including narcotics, marijuana, cellphones, and other illegal items, and direct his sister, VELVER JEAN DAVIS, and his niece, MATTOCKS, to allegedly obtain these items through their own contacts and suppliers, including family, friends,

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and associates of the inmates. HOWARD would then smuggle the items into MDC in exchange for hundreds of dollars in cash.

On the evening of her arrest, HOWARD was found in possession of a large red shopping bag she obtained from MATTOCKS. Inside the bag were several packages, containing crack-cocaine and marijuana, as well as three cell phones, various cell phone accessories, lighters, tobacco, rolling papers, pliers, earbuds and a flashlight. These items were intended to be smuggled into the MDC by HOWARD. When she was apprehended, HOWARD was in possession of \$800 cash, provided to her by MATTOCKS as a fee for smuggling these items into the MDC.

MATTOCKS pleaded guilty on April 26, 2016 to Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree and is awaiting sentencing. VELVER JEAN DAVIS and TOMMY DAVIS' cases are pending.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. and his staff, for their assistance and cooperation on this successful investigation and prosecution.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Correction and prosecuted by the New York County District Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit.

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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