



The City of New York
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DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CITY CORRECTION OFFICER ON CONTRABAND CHARGES

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") announced today the arrest of a New York City Department of Correction ("DOC") Officer on charges of promoting prison contraband into the Otis Bantum Correctional Center ("OBCC") on Rikers Island. DOI's drug-sniffing dog, Gunner, was positioned at the front gate during a screening on Friday afternoon at the 1 p.m. shift change and alerted on Correction Officer JAMES BROWN as he entered the facility where he is assigned. BROWN was searched and found carrying alcohol, a cell phone, and eight small packages containing marijuana and tobacco. Since 2014, and including this arrest, DOI has arrested 37 Correction Officers and other DOC staff on a variety of charges, including contraband smuggling charges.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Correction Officers who smuggle contraband into facilities, undermine safety, violate their duty to the City and their fellow officers, and will be arrested. DOI's focus on this and related illegal behavior has already resulted in 37 arrests, and counting, as well as significant reforms such as the introduction of drug-detecting canine units at the staff entrances. I thank DOC for its partnership in this investigation and its willingness to work towards improving the City's jails."

BROWN, 45, of Queens, N.Y., was arrested on charges of Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, pending review by the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

BROWN has been employed by DOC since January 2016 and receives an annual base salary of \$41,992. He was suspended by DOC upon arrest.

According to DOI's investigation, BROWN was screened as he entered OBCC. DOI's drug-sniffing dog, Gunner, alerted to BROWN. Once searched, BROWN was found to be carrying contraband including an Arizona Iced Tea bottle filled with alcohol, a cell phone, and eight zip-lock packages wrapped in electrical tape that contained 5.67 ounces of marijuana and 4.97 ounces of tobacco. BROWN attempted to hide the contraband in his socks, pants and duffle bag.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, Deputy Commissioner of the Investigation Division Gregory Kuczinski, and staff, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC specifically, Special Investigator Michael Garcia, under the supervision of Inspector General Jennifer Sculco, Associate Commissioner Paul Cronin, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll, and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

Arrest charges are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.



A photo of the contraband recovered from Correction Officer JAMES BROWN, including an iced-tea bottle filled with alcohol, a cell phone, and eight packages containing marijuana and tobacco.

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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