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For Immediate Release
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**CORRECTION OFFICER INDICTED FOR SMUGGLING CELL PHONE
AND MARIJUANA TO RIKERS ISLAND INMATE
Inmate and His Associate Also Charged in Contraband Scheme
Indictment Comes on Heels of Large Conspiracy Case by DOI and Bronx DA**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters today announced that a New York City Department of Correction Officer, an inmate and his associate have been charged with bringing a cell phone and marijuana into a Rikers Island jail.

District Attorney Clark said, “These contraband items empower inmates, hinder Correction Officers from maintaining order, and fuel lawlessness both inside and outside Rikers Island jails. My Office will relentlessly bring these cases with DOI Commissioner Peters and his investigators, and in cooperation with DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte.”

Commissioner Peters said, “Today’s arrest, the 32nd of DOC staff since our investigation began, builds upon the takedown of an extensive criminal contraband network at AMKC earlier this month, and furthers DOI’s and the District Attorney’s concerted efforts to eliminate contraband and the violence it fuels in our city’s jails. Through these investigations, we have demonstrated how these networks operate and can better direct our resources to targeting and eradicating them in the future. I thank District Attorney Clark and her staff for their continuing partnership in prosecuting these important cases.”

District Attorney Clark identified the defendants as Tessie Clifton, 53, of Manhattan, a DOC Officer for 3 1/2 years; Tyrone Williams, 26, an inmate in Rikers Island, and Jessenia Fajardo, 35, of the Bronx, an associate of Williams. They are to be arraigned today, May 31, 2016, in Bronx Supreme Court before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett.

Clifton and Williams are charged with first-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, second-degree promoting prison contraband and conspiracy. Clifton is also charged with



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Official Misconduct, and Williams with unlawful possession of marijuana. If convicted of the top count, they could face up to seven years in prison. Fajardo is charged with second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband and Conspiracy. If convicted she faces up to a year in jail.

According to the investigation, Clifton and Williams formed a personal relationship. According to the indictment, Clifton placed a black cell phone into a garbage can inside of AMKC Quad 11 Lower housing area on May 8, 2015, per Williams' instructions. In the previous month, Clifton allegedly brought in marijuana to Williams, hidden in her sock, multiple times. Fajardo had provided the marijuana to Clifton at meetings orchestrated by Williams. He was found to be in possession of marijuana in his cell in AMKC on April 13, 2015.

On May 19, 2016, the Bronx District Attorney's Office and DOI announced charges against two Correction Officers, a DOC employee, six inmates and eight civilians for smuggling scalpels, drugs and other items in the largest contraband takedown in more than a decade at Rikers Island.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the DOC, specifically Investigator Lawrence Bond, under the supervision of First Deputy Inspector General Chin Ho Cheng, Senior Inspector General Jennifer Sculco, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigators Michael Carroll and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner, with the assistance of the DOC Investigations Division, specifically Investigator Ali Fayad, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Gregory Kuczinski.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ann Lee of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Omer Wiczuk, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau; James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau; Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau; Deanna G. Logan, Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau; Mary Jo Blanchard, Counsel to the Investigations Division; Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division; and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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