

The City of New York Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 CONTACT:

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DOI STATEMENT ON CONVICTIONS OF FOUR CORRECTION OFFICERS IN INMATE ASSAULT AND RELATED COVER UP

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the convictions of four City Correction Officers in connection with the March 2013 assault of an inmate at the George Motchan Detention Center ("GMDC") on Rikers Island and the filing of false reports with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") in an attempt to cover up the incident. Two Correction Officers were convicted Wednesday after a jury trial and two Correction Officers were convicted today after a bench trial in Bronx County Supreme Court. Both cases were presided over by Judge Michael Gross. DOI investigated the case with DOC's Investigations Division and worked with the office of Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, which prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "These verdicts send a strong message to the City's Correction Officers: Engage in brutal behavior; lie to cover it up; and you will be punished. The defendants in this case are just four of the 33 Correction's staff DOI has already arrested as part of its crackdown on lawlessness at Rikers. DOI's investigation continues."

Today, CHRISTOPHER HUGGINS, 34, of Westbury, N.Y. was convicted of Assault in the Second Degree, a class D felony; and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree; a class E felony.

RONALD DONNELLEY, 63, of the Bronx, N.Y. was also convicted of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree.

On Wednesday, October 26, 2016, MICHAEL DORSAINVIL, 40, of Valley Stream, N.Y., was convicted in a jury trial of Assault in the Second Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree.

Also on Wednesday, MARK ANGLIN, 41, of Queens, N.Y., was convicted in a jury trial of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree.

Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison. All four Correction Officers are scheduled to be sentenced on December 7th.

DOI's investigation found that on March 15, 2013, a confrontation began with an inmate. Video surveillance showed DORSAINVIL and HUGGINS enter a holding cell and DORSAINVIL hitting the inmate in the face. As a result, the inmate sustained bruising and received stitches for injuries to his mouth.

After the incident, DORSAINVIL, HUGGINS and ANGLIN filed use-of-force reports with DOC that falsely indicated the force was necessary to prevent the inmate from hanging himself in his cell. DONNELLEY also filed a report as a witness to the incident, corroborating the statements of the other officers. The investigation found that the video surveillance did not support those statements.

DORSAINVIL has been employed with DOC since August 2007, HUGGINS has been employed at DOC since November 2008, ANGLIN has been employed at DOC since August 2004, and DONNELLEY has been employed with DOC since December 2001. Each receives a base salary of \$76,488. The officers were suspended upon arrest. As of their convictions, DOC has moved to terminate each of the defendants.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander, 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.

Assistant District Attorney and Deputy Director of Litigation Training Pishoy Yacoub and Assistant District Attorney Joseph Marciano prosecuted the case.

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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