



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI STATEMENT ON INVESTIGATION THAT RESULTED IN PRISON SENTENCES FOR
SIX CORRECTION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN GANG ASSAULT AND COVER-UP
*--Two other City Correction Officers are also sentenced in connection with the gang assault--***

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of eight City Department of Correction ("DOC") employees, including a former Assistant Chief for Security and a Captain, in connection with a gang assault of Riker's Island inmate Jahmal Lightfoot in July 2012 and further attempts to cover up the beating at the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC"). The defendants were each sentenced by Justice Steven Barrett in Bronx County Supreme Court. DOI worked on this investigation with the assistance of the Department of Correction's Investigative Division and the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Today's sentencing accords a measure of justice for the brutal acts perpetrated by former Correction employees including high-ranking officials. DOI's investigations exposing and preventing the types of corruption that fuel violence have resulted in more than thirty arrests of Correction Department officers and staff over the last two years and led to dozens of reforms. These types of systemic investigations will continue to focus on the elimination of large-scale contraband operations and excessive use of force that erodes the integrity of the City's jail system and the public's trust."

In June 2016, the following defendants were convicted of the top counts of Attempted Gang Assault in the First Degree and Attempted Assault in the First Degree, both class C felonies. Upon their conviction, each defendant, who was still working at DOC, was terminated from their position. Their individual sentences are listed below:

- ELISEO PEREZ, JR., 49, of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., began working for DOC in November 1987. When he retired as Assistant Chief of Security in June 2013, at the time of his arrest, he was receiving an annual salary of \$178,907. PEREZ was sentenced to a total of 6½ years followed by three years of post release supervision.
- ALFRED RIVERA, 47, of Staten Island, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in January 2008, and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in June 2016, upon his conviction. RIVERA was sentenced to a total of 4½ years followed by 2½ years of post release supervision.

- TOBIAS PARKER, 46, of Queens, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in June 2000 and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in June 2016, upon his conviction. PARKER was sentenced to a total of 4½ years followed by 2½ years of post release supervision.
- JOSE PARRA, 47, of the Bronx, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in March 2004 and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in June 2016, upon his conviction. PARRA was sentenced to a total of 4½ years followed by 2½ years of post release supervision.
- DAVID RODRIGUEZ, 41, of Bayville, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in July 1998 and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in June 2016, upon his conviction. RODRIGUEZ was sentenced to a total of 4½ years followed by 2½ years of post release supervision.
- GERALD VAUGHN, 49, of the Bronx, N.Y., began working for DOC in September 1990. He retired as a DOC Captain in January 2014 and at that time was receiving an annual salary of \$98, 072. VAUGHN was sentenced to a total of 5½ years followed by three years of post release supervision.

Two additional officers were convicted in June of Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. Their individual sentences are listed below:

- DWAYNE MAYNARD, 45, of the Bronx, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in January 2008 and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in July 2016, upon his conviction. MAYNARD was sentenced to a conditional discharge and 500 hours of community service.
- HARMON FRIERSON, 42, of the Bronx, N.Y., began working as a Correction Officer in December 2004 and was receiving an annual base salary of \$76,488 when he was terminated in July 2016, upon his conviction. FRIERSON was sentenced to a conditional discharge and 500 hours of community service.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters thanked Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and her team of dedicated Assistant District Attorneys, especially Lawrence Piergrossi, Pishoy Yacoub, and Raymond Valerio, for their prosecution of these cases. Commissioner Peters also thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, and his staff, for their cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Correction.

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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