



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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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 the arrest of a City Correction Officer Sunday afternoon, February 19, 2017, on charges of bringing in contraband, specifically tobacco, into the Anna M Kross Center ("AMKC") on Rikers Island. A team from the K-9 unit with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") Investigation Division was positioned at the front gate during routine screening Sunday at the 1 p.m. shift change and alerted on Correction Officer DEVANTE GRAHAM as he entered the facility where he is assigned. GRAHAM was searched and found carrying a ziplock bag containing loose tobacco. A subsequent search of GRAHAM's vehicle, parked on Rikers Island, revealed a ziplock bag containing three bundles wrapped in black tape, which contained marijuana. A photograph of the contraband is attached to this release. Since 2014, DOI has arrested more than three dozen Correction Officers and other DOC staff on a variety of charges, including contraband smuggling charges.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This arrest demonstrates the ongoing importance of deploying drug-sniffing canines at front gates. This was a key recommendation of DOI's 2014 Report on contraband trafficking and we are glad to see it working."

GRAHAM, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was charged with Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, Official Misconduct, and Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Fifth Degree, all class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration and a class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to three months' incarceration.

GRAHAM was arraigned Monday, February 20, 2017, and released on his own recognizance. His next court date is scheduled for April 10, 2017. GRAHAM has been employed by DOC since August 2015 and receives an annual base salary of \$45,817. He was suspended by DOC upon arrest.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, a K9 from DOC's Investigation's Division alerted on GRAHAM as he entered AMKC during routine screening. The defendant was escorted to a separate area and the K9 alerted again, indicating the defendant was in possession of drugs. The defendant then surrendered a plastic bag, which he had attempted to hide in his pants, containing a brown leafy substance identified as approximately 35 grams of loose tobacco. A subsequent K9 search of GRAHAM's vehicle also resulted in an alert by the driver's side door. Three bundles wrapped in black tape were recovered from the alert location, which contained over 25 grams of marijuana.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, DOC Deputy Commissioner of the Investigation Division Gregory Kuczinski, and Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC 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, with assistance from DOC's Investigation Division's K-9 Unit.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.



Pictured above is the contraband associated with the defendant: (left) three bundles of marijuana, wrapped in black tape, and found in the defendant's vehicle; and (right) loose tobacco in a ziplock bag that was hidden in the defendant's pants.

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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