



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
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DOI ARRESTS A CITY CORRECTION OFFICER ON DRUG AND CONTRABAND CHARGES

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Correction Officer ("CO") with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") Monday afternoon on charges of bringing in contraband to the Eric M. Taylor Center ("EMTC") after DOI's drug-detecting canine, Gunner, alerted to the presence of drugs on the CO. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Stopping the flow of contraband continues to be a top concern for DOI because it undermines the stability and safety of the City's jails. This arrest demonstrates DOI's continuing commitment to find and stop this dangerous and illegal conduct."

JASON PRIETO, 38, of Bronx, N.Y., has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony; Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class D felony; and Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, and Official Misconduct, all class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class B felony is punishable by up to 25 years in prison; a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration. PRIETO was arraigned late Monday in Bronx Criminal Court and remained in custody as of Tuesday morning. PRIETO is scheduled to return to court on Friday, April 20th.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, at approximately 12:40 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018, PRIETO reported to work at EMTC and DOI's drug-detecting canine, Gunner, was stationed inside EMTC's staff locker room where PRIETO was searched by Gunner. The dog alerted to the presence of possible contraband and DOI investigators found one large, clear plastic bag of tobacco and 11 glassine bags containing a beige, powdery substance that field-tested positive as heroin, all hidden in a rear panel of PRIETO's "slash vest," which COs wear inside facilities to protect them from an attack with a sharp object.

CO PRIETO has been employed by DOC as a CO since January 2016 and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$48,371. DOC suspended PRIETO after his arrest.

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

Assistant District Attorney Nancy H Strohmeyer from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Investigator Brian Hilario and Assistant Inspector General Carmelo Galarza and his drug-detecting canine Gunner, under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Sony Fortune, Assistant Inspector General Gladys Cambi, Deputy Inspectors General Reginald Barometre, Whitney Ferguson and Richard Askin, Inspector General Dana A. Roth, Associate Commissioner Paul Cronin, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Susan Lambiase, and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

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