



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBERY
CONSPIRACY**

Defendant Admitted Smuggling Contraband into Jail

Earlier today, in federal court in Brooklyn, Christian Mizell, a correction officer employed by the New York City Department of Corrections ("DOC"), pleaded guilty to participating in a bribery conspiracy with other correction officers. As part of his guilty plea allocution, Mizell admitted that he smuggled contraband to inmates at the Manhattan Detention Center in exchange for thousands of dollars in cash payments. Today's plea was held before United States District Judge Pamela K. Chen.

Richard P. Donoghue, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, James J. Hunt, Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Division (DEA), and Mark G. Peters, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the guilty plea.

As alleged in the indictment and statements made in court, Mizell conspired with others, through text messages and phone calls, to arrange with co-conspirators to deliver marijuana covertly to Mizell and other correction officers.

When sentenced, Mizell faces up to five years in prison, as well as a fine of up to \$250,000.

The government's case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Erik Paulsen of the Office's Public Integrity Section and Nomi Berenson of the Office's International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section.

The Defendant:

CHRISTIAN MIZELL

Age: 48

Queens, New York

E.D.N.Y. Docket No. 18-CR-60 (PKC)