



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #29-2018
nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
NICOLE TURSO
(212) 825-5931

**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CITY CORRECTION OFFICER
ON CHARGE OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a New York City Department of Correction ("DOC") Correction Officer on charges of concealing and bringing in what is believed to be marijuana and tobacco into the George R. Viero Center (GRVC) on Rikers Island. DOI's drug-sniffing dog, Buster, was positioned at the front gate during a routine screening on Wednesday morning, October 10, 2018, at the beginning of Correction Officer JEAN BERTRAND's afternoon tour and alerted on BERTRAND as he entered GRVC where he is assigned. The case is being prosecuted by the office of Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "DOI's investigations have demonstrated again and again that violence in the City's jails is fueled, in part, by the illegal contraband trade. Correction Officers who participate in this kind of illegal behavior endanger their colleagues and violate the trust the City places in them. DOI will continue to root out this criminal conduct."

BERTRAND, 39, of Queens, N.Y., was charged late Wednesday with three counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree and one count of Official Misconduct, all class A misdemeanors, and one count of Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Fifth Degree, a class B misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year's incarceration and a class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to three months' incarceration.

BERTRAND was arraigned and released on his own recognizance and is scheduled to return to court on November 26, 2018.

BERTRAND has been employed by DOC as a Correction Officer since June 2016, receives an annual base salary of approximately \$46,042 and was suspended Wednesday after his arrest.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, DOI's drug-sniffing dog, Buster, alerted on BERTRAND as he entered the front gate of GRVC to start his shift. When Bertrand was searched by DOI, a large plastic balloon was found on the defendant and inside that balloon were three smaller balloons, two of which contained a dried, green leafy substance with a distinctive odor, weighing in excess of 25 grams, and one which contained a brown leafy substance. The substances are believed to be marijuana and tobacco, respectively.

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

more

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically, DOI's K-9 team: Special Investigator Karla Bentson and K-9 Buster, under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Carmelo Galarza; and Investigator Ernesto Gonzalez, all under the supervision of Assistant Inspectors General Sony Fortune and 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.

Bronx County Assistant District Attorney Jason Navia, assigned to the Public Integrity Bureau in the Bronx District Attorney's Office, is prosecuting the case.

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

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.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/NYC_DOI
Bribery and Corruption are a Trap. Don't Get Caught Up. Report It at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**