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RIKERS ISLAND PHYSICAL THERAPIST INDICTED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING MALE INMATE

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and NYC Department of Investigation Commissioner Margaret Garnett today announced that a physical therapist who worked at Rikers Island has been indicted on multiple charges for sexually abusing a former inmate.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant, a physical therapist working under a contract in the jail, allegedly sexually assaulted an inmate during a therapy session. The defendant took advantage of his patient, who was attending sessions for a back injury. The assault left the victim in a distraught condition, but thankfully he reported the act. We will not tolerate abuse in Rikers Island by anyone, or against anyone.”

DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett said, “This defendant used his access as a public servant tasked with providing physical therapy on Rikers Island to prey upon inmates and commit a heinous crime, according to the charges. This investigation illustrates DOI’s commitment to protecting the safety and security of everyone at Rikers, whether they are inmates, staff, or visitors. I want to thank the City Department of Correction for promptly referring this allegation to DOI, and the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office for its partnership in investigating this significant matter.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Carlos Negron, 57, of 29th Street, Queens, N.Y., was arraigned today on first and third-degree Criminal Sex Act, Sexual Misconduct, first-degree Sexual Abuse, second and third-degree Coercion and Official Misconduct before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy. Bail was set at \$25,000 bond, \$10,000 cash or ten percent partially secured \$50,000 bond. The defendant is due back in court on December 16, 2019.

According to the investigation, on May 30, 2019, in the West Facility in Rikers Island, the defendant allegedly sexually abused a male inmate. The alleged abuse occurred when the victim, who was 26-years-old at the time of the incident, went to Negron for his usual physical therapy session. During the session, the defendant allegedly told the victim to perform a sexual act on him and threatened to get him in trouble with the guard if he didn’t comply. The victim



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allegedly performed oral sex on the defendant. The victim made an immediate outcry as soon as he was out of the custody of the defendant but while still in the physical therapy area.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Thomas Montella and Sarah Clements of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Omer Wiczynk, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and the overall supervision of Tarek Rahman, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Carolina Bayuelo of the Investigations Division for her assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked DOI, specifically DOI Special Investigator Matthew London and Deputy Inspectors General Richard Askin and Renee Hassel, under the supervision of Inspector General Dana A. Roth, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella, and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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