





The New York City Department of Correction

Jail Smuggling Attempt Stopped Cold

DOC Investigators Discover Weapons Cache Meant for Inmate

East Elmhurst, N.Y. — DOC's Correction Intelligence Bureau (CIB) recently arrested a female visitor for attempting to smuggle ten razor blades, one handcuff key, and one sharpened screwdriver (see photo below) into a DOC facility.

On June 22, investigators discovered the contraband wrapped in foam inside a bag belonging to a 32-year-old woman who was at DOC's Bronx facility, the Vernon C. Bain Center (VCBC), to visit an inmate. CIB arrested the suspect on the spot, and she now faces felony and misdemeanor charges. Incidentally, the inmate she intended to visit had already been bailed out.

A key part of DOC's 14 Point Anti-Violence Reform Agenda is keeping contraband out of jails. The reform agenda is designed to move the Department towards a culture of safety. Less contraband means less violence.



PHOTO 1 DOC Office of Public Information: contraband found on visitor.

This latest arrest highlights the triple digit year over year (calendar year 2016 vs. 2015) increase in weapons contraband finds by DOC Investigators.

Weapons contraband finds increased 538%, and drug contraband finds increased 45%.

The large spike in contraband finds is the direct result of an ongoing amnesty program, and new DOC investigative tactics and strategies

including: increased K-9 units special search teams, and increased visitor bus searches.

"The Mayor's commitment to DOC reforms has saved lives," remarked **Antonio Cruz, DOC Acting Deputy Commissioner of Investigation Division & Correction Intelligence Bureau**. "Our investigators have re-dedicated themselves to even more effectively gathering and assessing department-wide intel, coordinating information, findings, and leads."

"Safety is the Department's top priority," said **DOC Acting Commissioner Cynthia Brann**. "We're proud that our hard working staff has dramatically increased the interception of contraband. We would find even more weapons if we had the ability to use ionizing scanners."

In 2012 and 2013, DOC purchased 7 ionizing scanners. In March 2014, DOC stopped using them due to State law that prohibits their use outside of medical purposes by licensed medical personnel.

Ionizing scanners are successfully used in federal lockups, as they are able to find small blades, which other machines miss. The Department will continue to work closely with State legislators to pursue the change in State law required to authorize the use of ionizing scanners.

DOC Contraband / Scanner Information:

- Contraband "associated with visits" means that it was either found on a visitor, or on an inmate who just had contact with a visitor, or it was discovered at a visit center.
- The Department made 721 weapons contraband finds in 2016 up from 113 in 2015.
- The Department made 432 drug contraband finds in 2016 up from 298 in 2015.
- Items found on the Q100 visitor bus include razors, box cutters, knives, scalpels, pepper spray, drugs, and even a stun gun (pictured in photo to right.)



PHOTO 2 DOC Office of Public Information: common contraband finds.

About the New York City Department of Correction

<u>The New York City Department of Correction (DOC)</u> provides for the care, custody, and control of persons accused of crimes or convicted and sentenced to one year or less of jail time.

The Department manages 12 inmate facilities, nine of which are located on Rikers Island. In addition, the Department operates two hospital Prison Wards (Bellevue and Elmhurst hospitals) and court holding facilities in each borough.

During Fiscal Year 2016, the Department handled over 63,000 admissions and managed an average daily inmate population of approximately 9,790 individuals. Our dedicated workforce of both uniformed and non-uniformed staff members represent the city's BOLDEST.

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