



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER



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Release #28-2013  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

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**DOI STATEMENT ON CITY CORRECTION OFFICER'S GUILTY PLEA TO RECEIVING A BRIBE FOR  
SMUGGLING CONTRABAND INTO CITY JAIL**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the guilty plea of a New York City Correction Officer to receiving a \$600 cash bribe to smuggle in purported oxycodone pills to the George Motchan Detention Center ("GMDC") on Rikers Island. MARK HOWARD, 45, of Manhattan, pleaded guilty to Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree before Bronx County Supreme Court Judge Miriam Best and is scheduled to be sentenced to one year in jail on November 6, 2013. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The City has zero tolerance for anyone, especially a City Correction Officer, who pockets a bribe to smuggle in contraband. DOI continues to work with the Correction Department to uncover and stop this illegal conduct that erodes safety and security within the City's jails."

HOWARD was arrested in June 2011 as part of a DOI undercover investigation that found DOC employees took cash bribes in exchange for smuggling what they thought were narcotics into City jails. The narcotics, however, were actually placebos used in the covert operation to ensure no drugs were brought onto Rikers Island.

HOWARD, who was a Correction Officer at GMDC, has been employed at the City Department of Correction ("DOC") since November 2006, where his annual base salary was \$76,488. He has remained suspended without pay since his arrest in this case.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schriro and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC.

Assistant District Attorney Daniel Haines of the Bronx County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau is assigned to the prosecution of this matter under the supervision of Thomas L. Leahy, Chief of the Investigations Division, and Stuart P. Levy, Chief of the Rackets Bureau.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. 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.*

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