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DOI STATEMENT ON INDICTMENT OF RIKERS INMATE ON CHARGES OF ALTERING A COURT BAIL ORDER

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement today on the indictment and arrest of Rikers Island inmate DANA FRONTIS on charges of tampering with a court order by writing in lower bond and cash bail amounts and forging a court official's initials in an unsuccessful attempt to gain release from jail last month. DOI investigated the matter after it was notified by the City Department of Correction ("DOC") about discrepancies in FRONTIS's New York State Court Securing Order. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson obtained the indictment and is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This inmate concocted his own 'Get out of Jail Card,' according to the charges, but an alert Correction Officer spotted the ruse and thwarted that scheme. The Correction Department's immediate referral of the matter allowed DOI investigators to quickly uncover the facts that led to this indictment obtained by the Bronx County District Attorney. DOI will continue to work with its law enforcement partners to ensure that criminal wrongdoing affecting the City is exposed and prosecuted."

FRONTIS, 46, of Brooklyn, currently a prisoner on Rikers Island, has been charged with Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree, class D felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

In February 2010, FRONTIS was in custody on Rikers Island and was scheduled for an appearance in State Supreme Court in Manhattan on then-pending burglary charges. On February 9, 2010, according to today's indictment, FRONTIS altered the New York State Court Securing Order under which he was being held. DOI's investigation revealed that the charged alterations involved FRONTIS's having lowered the Court-ordered bond amount of \$100,000 to \$1,000, changing the \$75,000 cash bail provision to \$7,500, and forging a State Court official's initials on the document. A DOC officer noticed discrepancies in FRONTIS's bail terms and immediately notified DOC supervisors who promptly informed DOI, resulting in DOI's investigation and today's indictment.

With respect to the burglary case on which he was being held last month, FRONTIS pleaded guilty to Burglary in the Second Degree and on February 23, 2010 was sentenced to eight years in prison.

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

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

Assistant District Attorney Robert Caliendo of the Bronx District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution of the case.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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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