



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED WITH ASSAULT AND
FALSE REPORTS REGARDING HIS USE OF FORCE ON JAIL VISITOR**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of Correction Officer GREGORY GRABOWSKI on charges of falsely reporting the circumstances under which he used force against a 22-year-old visitor at the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island on December 23, 2011 by reporting the visitor supposedly threatened and elbowed him. The visitor was arrested based on GRABOWSKI's charged false statements and those charges were later dismissed. DOI investigated the matter after Department of Correction ("DOC") supervisors reported that the accounts of several civilian witnesses differed materially from GRABOWSKI's report. The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "While charges were dropped by the District Attorney's office against a visitor to Riker's Island, it is now a Correction Officer who stands charged with making false statements about the visitor's conduct. The officer has put his freedom and career in jeopardy."

DOI interviewed numerous witnesses, reviewed various reports, and referred its findings to DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schriro and the Bronx District Attorney's Office. In sum, the investigation revealed that GRABOWSKI, while assigned to a K-9 unit to search the visitors' area within GRVC, argued with the visitor and denied him permission to visit the jail. According to the charges outlined in the indictment, GRABOWSKI harassed and assaulted the visitor and filed false statements of the incident on the date it occurred and thereafter within DOC and with the Bronx criminal courts. DOI's investigation found that GRABOWSKI was seen punching the visitor several times in the face.

GRABOWSKI, 36, of Deer Park, N.Y., a City Correction Officer since June 2000, was indicted and suspended without pay. He is assigned to the Emergency Services Unit as a K-9 officer and had been receiving an annual salary of \$76,488. He surrendered this morning to DOI investigators in the Bronx.

The defendant has been charged with crimes that include three counts each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, class E felonies, and one count of Assault in the Third Degree and three counts of Official Misconduct, which are class A misdemeanors, and related charges. Upon conviction, a class E felony is

punishable by up to four years' imprisonment, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schiro and their staffs for their assistance and cooperation on this investigation.

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

Assistant District Attorney Peter Kennedy at the Bronx County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Rackets Bureau Chief Stuart Levy.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and 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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