



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DOI RE-ARRESTS DJJ COUNSELOR ON DRUG CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of BARRETT WALTERS, a former Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) counselor, for possession of a controlled substance. DOI first arrested WALTERS on June 19, 2002, on 2 counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, and Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, in connection with 2 incidents earlier this year at the Bridges Juvenile Center in the Bronx.

In January 2002, WALTERS allegedly coerced a 16-year old male juvenile resident at Bridges (formerly known as Spofford) to strip below the waist while WALTERS watched, in exchange for providing the juvenile with the drug Ecstasy. He was also charged with grabbing the buttocks and penis of another 16-year old male resident in March of this year. WALTERS was terminated from DJJ on June 19, 2002.

Upon his arrest in June, WALTERS was found to be in possession of a small amount of what appeared to be cocaine, rolled up in a \$5 bill. A laboratory analysis later confirmed the presence of cocaine.

WALTERS, 46, of 1980 Park Avenue in Manhattan, was arrested yesterday by DOI investigators at the Bronx Criminal Court, where he had a scheduled court appearance on the earlier charges. He has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez and members of his staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Michael Caruso, DOI's Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for DJJ and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Valerie Brown, Supervising Investigator Octavia Hill, and Correction Officer Investigator Cindi Tsui.

DOI Re-Arrests DJJ Counselor On Drug CHarges

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will be prosecuting the case.