



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CITY CORRECTION OFFICER FOR ATTEMPTED GRAND LARCENY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of Correction Officer Heriberto Vasquez for attempting to steal approximately \$25,000 from a Rikers Island inmate.

Heriberto Vasquez, 35, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor. If convicted, Mr. Vasquez faces up to four years imprisonment.

Pursuant to an undercover investigation, DOI learned that Correction Officer Vasquez planned to accept a \$25,000 from an inmate in exchange for his promise to help the inmate escape from Rikers Island. Thereafter, Vasquez admitted to DOI investigators that he planned to accept the money and further stated that he considered the \$25,000 a loan he intended to accept but not repay. Mr. Vasquez also said he did not intend to help the inmate escape. Mr. Vasquez, a Correction Officer since July 1996, whose current annual salary is \$54,048, has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case.

The investigation was conducted by Michael Caruso, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Correction, and members of his staff including, Supervising Investigators George Santiago and Special Investigators Michelle Flores and William Injean.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DOC Commissioner Martin Horn and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, Assistant District Attorney Stuart Levy, under the direction of Bureau Chief Thomas Leahy of the Rackets and Investigation Division.

Criminal Complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.