

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 212-825-5900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006 Release #33-2006 nyc.gov/html/doi

CONTACT: ERIN BYRNE (212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS 3 CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS, 2 COOKS AND A NURSE'S AIDE FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE DRUGS AND OTHER CONTRABAND INTO CITY JAILS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI) today announced the arrest of five Department of Correction (DOC) employees and one Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) employee assigned to Rikers Island -- three Correction Officers, two Cooks, and a Nurse's Aide -- for allegedly smuggling drugs and contraband into City jail facilities. These cases are being prosecuted by the Office of the Bronx District Attorney, Robert T. Johnson.

According to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, on 10 separate occasions these six individuals met with DOI undercover agents and accepted bribes ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 to smuggle cocaine, marijuana, and tobacco, as well as a cell phone, into various City jail facilities in which they worked. Each investigation was initiated by information DOC staff members or inmates provided to DOI. Each of the six cases is separate and is the result of separate undercover investigations.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "In 2003, DOI arrested seven employees for smuggling contraband into the jails. Now six more employees are under arrest for the same conduct. These City employees ruin their careers and lives by engaging in this criminal activity. This case should be a warning that DOI and DOC will continue to investigate these crimes and continue their efforts to eradicate drug smuggling from City jails. I applaud those who came forward to report these criminal acts."

DOC Commissioner Martin Horn said, "Smuggling contraband of any type is one of the worst things a Correction employee can do. It breaks faith with their fellow employees, puts other employees at extreme risk and jeopardizes public safety."

The facts and circumstances surrounding each arrest are as follows:

Correction Officer ERIC JONES, 35, of Freeport, New York, on two separate occasions allegedly smuggled ¹/₂ ounce packages of simulated cocaine to a George Motchan Detention Center ("GMDC") Rikers Island inmate and, in exchange, accepted a total of \$2,000 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate's girlfriend. JONES, a Correction Officer since August 2004, whose current salary is \$36,008, is expected to be suspended

without pay pending resolution of the criminal case. He has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, a Class A-II Felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, a Class D Felony, Bribe Receiving in the 3rd Degree a Class D Felony, Attempted Promoting Prison Contraband in the 1st Degree, a Class E Felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the 2nd Degree, a Class E Felony, Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, JONES faces up to life imprisonment.

Correction Officer GARY HEYWARD, 39, of Manhattan, on two separate occasions allegedly smuggled a cell phone and ½ ounce of simulated cocaine to a GMDC Rikers Island inmate and, in exchange, accepted a total of \$1,500 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate's girlfriend. HEYWARD, a Correction Officer since July 1997, whose current salary is \$59,588, is expected to be suspended without pay pending resolution of the criminal case. He has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, a Class A-II Felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, a Class D Felony, Bribe Receiving in the 3rd Degree a Class D Felony, Attempted Promoting Prison Contraband in the 1st Degree, a Class E Felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Hisdemeanor. If convicted, HEYWARD faces up to life imprisonment.

Correction Officer GLENDA GLENN, 56, of Yonkers, on two separate occasions allegedly smuggled tobacco to a Vernon C. Bain Center ("VCBC") Rikers Island inmate and, in exchange, accepted a total of \$100 from an inmate working with DOI. GLENN, a Correction Officer since September 1991, whose current salary is \$59,588, is expected to be suspended without pay pending resolution of the criminal case. GLENN has been charged with Bribe Receiving in the 3rd Degree, a Class D Felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the 2nd Degree a Class E Felony, Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor and Promoting Prison Contraband in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, GLENN faces up to seven years imprisonment.

ANTHONY GUZMAN, 42, of the Bronx, on one occasion allegedly agreed to smuggle tobacco and crack cocaine to several inmates housed at the Rose M. Singer Center ("RMSC") on Rikers Island in exchange for \$100, which he accepted from an inmate working with DOI. GUZMAN, a DOC civilian cook since January 1993, whose current salary is \$29,178, is expected to be suspended without pay pending the resolution of the criminal case. GUZMAN has been charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony; Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony; Bribe Receiving in the 3rd Degree, a Class D Felony and Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, GUZMAN faces up to twenty-five years imprisonment.

AHMAD ABDUL HAKIM, 54, of the Bronx, on two separate occasions allegedly smuggled a ¹/₂ ounce package of simulated cocaine and a 1/8 ounce package of simulated cocaine, as well as marijuana and cigarettes, to an Anna M. Cross Center ("AMKC") Rikers Island inmate and accepted a total of \$1,050 from a DOI undercover agent posing as the inmate's girlfriend. HAKIM, a DOC civilian cook since November 1991 earning \$29,178 is expected to be suspended without pay pending resolution of the criminal case. HAKIM has been charged with Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, a Class A-II Felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class C Felony, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree a Class D Felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the 2nd Degree, a Class E Felony, Promoting Prison Contraband in the 2d Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor; Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor, and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, a Violation. If convicted, HAKIM faces up to life imprisonment.

CLEVELAND PORTER, 41, of Manhattan, on one occasion allegedly smuggled tobacco to a VCBC inmate in exchange for \$98, which he accepted from an inmate working with DOI. PORTER, a Nurses Aide assigned to

VCBC, has been a HHC employee since May 1989 is expected to be suspended without pay pending resolution of the criminal case. PORTER has been charged with Bribe Receiving in the 3rd Degree, a Class D Felony, Promoting Prison Contraband in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, PORTER faces up to seven years imprisonment.

In July 2003, DOI arrested seven City employees -- two Correction Officers, three Cooks, a Drug Counselor and a Teacher's Aide -- for smuggling drugs into the City jails. In these seven cases, the defendants smuggled heroin, cocaine and marijuana into the City jail facilities in which they worked. Within a few months of DOI's arrests all seven pled guilty and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 45 days to six years.

In today's six arrests, which take place since the smoking ban went into effect at Correction facilities, four of the six defendants have been charged with smuggling tobacco into the jails. Smuggling and illegal sales of tobacco and cigarettes has become a lucrative activity and corruption risk at the jails and we urge DOC to develop solutions to this problem.

These investigations were conducted by DOI's Inspector General for Department of Correction Tim Crowe; First Deputy Inspector General Meera Cattafesta, Deputy Inspector General Daniel Alejandro, Supervising Investigators Michelle Flores, Lawrence McGugins and Octavia Hill; Correction Officer Investigators Albert Jones and Rhonda Young, Special Investigator William Injean and Confidential Investigator Jared Feirstein.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her thanks to DOC Commissioner Horn, Chief of Department Carolyn Thomas, DOC's Internal Affairs Division, and all other DOC staff that assisted DOI during this investigation.

All individuals arrested are being prosecuted by the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, Robert T. Johnson -- Assistant District Attorneys Denise Kodjo; Colleen Barry and Kristen Bowes under the direction of Thomas Leahy, Bureau Chief of the Rackets Bureau.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at 212-825-5959.