



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**STATEMENT FROM DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN REGARDING GUILTY  
PLEA BY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING CONTRABAND  
INTO RIKERS ISLAND**

I am pleased to learn that Correction Officer Gary Heyward pled guilty today in Bronx Criminal Court to Attempted Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree. This plea takes place only one week after DOI arrested CO Heyward, along with four other Department of Correction (DOC) employees and one Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) employee, for participating in schemes to smuggle drugs, tobacco, and a cell phone into inmates at Rikers Island. In exchange, they were charged with accepting bribes from undercover agents ranging from \$50 to \$1,000. CO Heyward's sentencing is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

The charges against CO Heyward were that he, on two separate occasions, 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. These transactions were captured by DOI undercover investigators on video and audiotape.

Such conduct constitutes an abuse of Heyward's position as a Correction Officer and created a safety hazard for himself, as well as his fellow DOC employees. This should serve as a warning that DOI will continue to investigate such criminal activity and continue our efforts to eradicate drug smuggling from City jails. I would like to thank the Bronx District Attorney's Office for this expeditious prosecution.

*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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.***