



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #76-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2010**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN INDICTMENT OF FORMER CORRECTION OFFICER,
INMATE, AND INMATE'S MOTHER IN BRIBERY-CONTRABAND SCHEME**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the indictment of a former Correction Officer and an inmate and his mother in a December 2009 bribery-and-contraband scheme. Following an investigation by DOI, DASMOND LOVELESS and his mother, CAROLYN LOVELESS, were charged with paying TENEYA GRIFFITH, a former Correction Officer, to bring tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, prohibited items in the City's jails, into the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island where she was then working. GRIFFITH was previously arrested in connection with this case in December 2009, after the contraband was discovered by City Department of Correction ("DOC") personnel, who alerted DOI.

The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson obtained the 20-count indictment and is prosecuting the case.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These defendants defied the clear-cut rules prohibiting corruption and contraband in City jails, according to the charges. But this indictment should leave no doubt – anyone who deliberately jeopardizes the integrity and safety of New York City's jails and correction personnel risks arrest, prosecution, and jail time."

The indictment charges the following individuals:

TENEYA GRIFFITH, 26, of Queens, is charged with three counts each of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, and one count of Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

GRIFFITH, inmate DASMOND LOVELESS, 24, and his mother CAROLYN LOVELESS, 41, of Yonkers, N.Y. are charged with acting in concert to Promote Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. The LOVELESSES are also each charged with acting in concert on the following offenses: three counts each of Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony, and Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor

Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the charges outlined in the indictment, DOI's investigation determined that between December 15 and December 30, 2009, DASMOND LOVELESS and his mother, CAROLYN LOVELESS acted in concert three times to confer a benefit on GRIFFITH, and in exchange for accepting the benefit GRIFFITH brought in tobacco, alcohol and marijuana.

more

DOC officials found and secured the contraband on December 30, 2009, before it was delivered to DASMOND LOVELESS. GRIFFITH was employed as a Correction Officer from January 2008 until her employment was terminated on December 31, 2009, was assigned to GRVC, and received approximately \$54,757 in salary and overtime pay in 2009.

DASMOND LOVELESS and CAROLYN LOVELESS were arraigned today in Bronx Supreme Court. GRIFFITH is scheduled to be arraigned in December 2010.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schriro and Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

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

Assistant District Attorney Randy Sinkler of the Bronx County District Attorney's Racket's Bureau is assigned to the prosecution of this case.

An indictment is 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.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**