



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN CONTRABAND AND BRIBERY ARREST
OF A CITY-CONTRACTED NURSE ON RIKERS ISLAND**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Licensed Practical Nurse employed by Corizon Health, Inc., a private correctional healthcare company, on charges of smuggling alcohol, tobacco, and a narcotic to inmates housed in the Anna M. Cross Center ("AMKC") on Rikers Island. This is the eleventh arrest of an employee at Rikers Island as a result of DOI's broader investigation into violence and contraband smuggling and follows a sweep conducted last week by DOI at Rikers Island jail that uncovered weapons.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "There is zero tolerance for anyone who threatens the safety and integrity of the City's jails by trafficking drugs, alcohol, and tobacco to inmates. As DOI's ongoing investigation has shown, contraband smuggling contributes to the larger problems of violence and disorder on Rikers Island and we are committed to exposing and stopping this pernicious and illegal conduct."

JEFFREY TAYLOR, 48, of the Bronx, N.Y., was charged late Tuesday, September 23, 2014, with varying counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, class D felonies; Official Misconduct and Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors; and Conspiracy in the Sixth Degree, a class B misdemeanor. Upon conviction a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration, and a class B misdemeanor by up to three months' incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, the defendant is a Licensed Practical Nurse employed by Corizon, which is contracted by the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") to provide medical services for Rikers Island inmates, and has been working on Rikers Island for the past four years. The investigation found that between May and September 2014, the defendant took orders from three inmates for alcohol, including vodka, rum and other flavored drinks, and loose tobacco. The defendant used inmates in janitorial jobs to pick up the product, specifically the defendant would hide the contraband where the inmates were cleaning and they would pick it up and deliver it to other inmates. The investigation found that the defendant received wire transfers that ranged between \$25 and \$299.99, for a total of more than \$2,200, for smuggling in the contraband. On one occasion, the defendant delivered 20 strips of the narcotic suboxone to an inmate in the clinic in exchange for \$200.

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This investigation is part of DOI's broader probe into violence, contraband smuggling, and evidence tampering on Rikers Island, which, in addition to today's arrest, has resulted in the arrests of ten Correction Officers and supervisors and more than 30 inmates. DOI and DOC have also conducted several joint sweeps for contraband in several Rikers Island jails, including one last week that resulted in the recovery of several weapons, such as razors and sharpened metal, some that were concealed in various ways, including wrapped in clothing and on top of a cell door.

Commissioner Peters thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, DOHMH Commissioner, Dr. Mary Bassett, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Investigator Richard Askin under the supervision of Inspector General Jennifer Sculco and Associate Commissioner Michael Carroll.

Assistant District Attorney Christina Barba from the office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Larry Piergrossi and James Goward, Supervisor of the Rackets Bureau and Deputy Bureau Chief of the Rackets Bureau, respectively.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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.

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