



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS CITY CORRECTION OFFICER ON CHARGES OF
FABRICATING HIS ROLE IN RESPONDING TO AN INMATE IN MEDICAL DISTRESS**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Correction Officer on charges of filing a false report stating that he was the first to report an inmate in need of medical assistance at the Anna M. Kross Center ("AMKC"). This arrest is DOI's sixth this month of a Correction employee -- five Correction Officers and one Captain -- and is part of DOI's larger investigation into violence and contraband smuggling within the City's correction system. To date, that investigation has led to the arrests of more than 20 Correction Officers and other staff members within the City's jails and more than three dozen inmates; and a series of reforms, including improved screening for contraband and strengthening of staff hiring procedures.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Correction officers who intentionally misrepresent the facts manipulate the official record and the City's ability to get at the truth. These breaches of trust are serious and contribute to the larger problems in the City's jail system, as this criminal investigation demonstrates. The only way to truly turn around the City's jails is to ensure that those who undermine their integrity are called to account."

Today, the following individual was arrested and charged by an indictment:

- WICKENSON DEMAITRE, 47, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, and related offenses. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

The investigation found that on October 1, 2014, at approximately 4 am, an inmate at AMKC observed another inmate who appeared to be in medical distress and reported the incident to a Correction Officer who then contacted medical personnel. A second CO, identified as DEMAITRE, later walked over to the inmate, did not offer assistance, and stood by while other inmates assisted the inmate in medical distress until medical personnel arrived. Correction officers are required to call for medical assistance in connection with inmates, but are not required to administer that assistance. The inmate was pronounced dead at 5 a.m. that day. According to the Office of the City Medical Examiner, the manner of death was determined to be natural and the cause of death was determined to be gastrointestinal-related. Following the death, DEMAITRE filed an incident report that did not accurately reflect his role in the incident by falsely stating that he was the first to call for medical assistance.

DEMAITRE has been employed with DOC since December 2001 and was receiving an annual base salary of approximately \$76,488 when he was terminated in October 2014, during this investigation.

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This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Knoepfler and James Goward, Deputy Chief of the Bronx County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau.

Commissioner Peters thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson, and their staffs, for their assistance in these investigations.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for DOC, specifically Special Investigator Richard Askin, under the supervision of First Deputy Inspector General Chin Ho Cheng, Senior Inspector General Jennifer Sculco, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Lesley Brovner.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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 strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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