



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #17-2016  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**NICOLE TURSO**  
**212-825-5931**

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION STATEMENT  
ON THE CONVICTIONS OF FIVE CORRECTION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES  
IN GANG ASSAULT AND COVER-UP**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the convictions of five Department of Correction ("DOC") employees, including a former Assistant Chief for Security, in connection with a brutal gang assault of inmate Jahmal Lightfoot in July 2012 and the subsequent attempts to cover-up the beating at the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island. The defendants were convicted in Bronx County Supreme Court presided over by Justice Steven Barrett. DOI worked on this investigation with the assistance of the Department of Correction's Investigative Division and the Bronx District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Today's convictions make a strong statement: savagely beating an inmate will not be tolerated in the City's jails. This criminal investigation demonstrates how corruption can jeopardize the integrity of an elite response unit in the jails and the people's faith in the professionalism of the jail system overall. DOI's focus over the last two years on exposing and stopping what fuels the violence has led to more than two dozen arrests of Correction Department officers and employees, shutting down numerous contraband distribution operations, and strengthening screening and staff recruitment procedures. These investigations, these results, support the real reforms happening on Rikers right now and throughout the City's correction system."

The following defendants were convicted following a jury trial. Each has been convicted of the top counts of Attempted Gang Assault in the First Degree and Attempted Assault in the First Degree, both class C felonies. The defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on September 6, 2016. Those individuals who are still employed by DOC and who have been convicted of a felony will be terminated.

- ELISEO PEREZ, JR., 49, of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., began working for DOC in November 1987. He retired as Assistant Chief of Security in June 2013 at the time of his arrest, and at that time was receiving an annual salary of \$178,907.
- ALFRED RIVERA, 47, of Staten Island, N.Y., has been a Correction Officer since January 2008, is assigned to Otis Bantum Correctional Center ("OBCC"), and receives an annual base salary of \$76,488.
- TOBIAS PARKER, 46, of Queens, N.Y., has been a Correction Officer since June 2000, is assigned to OBCC, and receives an annual base salary of \$76,488.
- JOSE PARRA, 47, of the Bronx, N.Y., has been a Correction Officer since March 2004, is assigned to OBCC, and receives an annual base salary of \$76,488.
- DAVID RODRIGUEZ, 41, of Bayville, N.Y., has been a Correction Officer since July 1998, is assigned to OBCC, and receives an annual base salary of \$76,488.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters thanked Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and her team of dedicated Assistant District Attorneys, especially Lawrence Piergrossi, Pishoy Yacoub, and Raymond Valerio, for their successful

more

prosecution of this matter. Commissioner Peters also thanked DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte, and his staff, for their cooperation in this investigation.

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

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Lawrence Piergrossi, Pishoy Yacoub, and Raymond Valerio.

An indictment is an accusation. Defendants are presumed 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.*

**DOI's press releases can also be found at [twitter.com/doinews](https://twitter.com/doinews)  
See Something Crooked in NYC? Report Corruption at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**