



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF ANOTHER CORRECTION OFFICER IN BRONX PARKING LOT FOR THE CITY'S JAIL BARGE

Margaret Garnett, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Correction Officer with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") on assault and sexual abuse charges of another Correction Officer in the Bronx parking lot for the Vernon C. Bain Center ("VCBC"), DOC's jail barge used to hold inmates. The matter was reported to DOC, which then referred the incident for investigation to DOI. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark is prosecuting the case.

RICHARD WILSON, 57, of Pomona, N.Y., was charged Thursday, October 14, with Forcible Touching, and Assault in the Third Degree, both class A misdemeanors; Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor; and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration, a class B misdemeanor by up to three months incarceration, and a violation by up to 15 days incarceration.

WILSON was arraigned today, Friday, October 15, 2021 and released on his own recognizance.

DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett said, "The charged conduct described in this criminal complaint is alarming, most especially because it involves a correction officer whose duty is to uphold the law not break it. DOI commends the reporting of this conduct to authorities; and thanks DOC for its assistance and cooperation and the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their prosecution of the matter."

According to the criminal complaint, at approximately 7 p.m. on August 28, 2019, in the Bronx parking lot for VCBC on Halleck Street, WILSON approached another Correction Officer's parked vehicle, opened the door, and forcibly kissed the Correction Officer who tried to pull away. The defendant then grabbed the Correction Officer by the hair and sexually assaulted the Correction Officer.

WILSON has been employed by DOC as a Correction Officer since June 2002, and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$85,000. DOC suspended WILSON upon arrest.

DOI Commissioner Garnett thanked Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and her staff for their prosecution of this matter; and DOC Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi and his staff for their cooperation in the investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Special Investigator Zoë Swenson, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Rich Askin, Senior

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Inspector General Dana A. Roth, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella, and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort.

Assistant District Attorneys Cassie Perez and John Oxenreiter, assigned to the Public Integrity Bureau in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, are prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Assistant District Attorney Omer Wiczzyk.

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 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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