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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

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**FORMER NYC DOC OFFICER, INMATE AND CIVILIAN INDICTED FOR
SMUGGLING iPHONE INTO RIKERS ISLAND
CO Allegedly Took \$2,500 Bribe For Sneaking Phone to Inmate**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber today announced that a former NYC Department of Correction Officer, an inmate and a civilian have been indicted for smuggling a cellphone to the inmate in a Rikers Island jail.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant, a Correction Officer at the time, allegedly took a \$2,500 bribe for sneaking in an iPhone to an inmate. Contraband can lead to violence, and this officer tarnished his badge and put his fellow officers and inmates in danger. My Office will not tolerate criminal activity by anyone who threatens safety in the jail.”

Commissioner Strauber said, “This former City Correction officer, as alleged, smuggled a cell phone to a person in custody on Rikers Island in exchange for cash. Contraband cellphones in City jails pose risks to both officers and inmates, and this officer, as charged, violated his duty to his fellow officers and to the public for a payout. I thank the Department of Correction and the Bronx District Attorney for their commitment to pursue officer misconduct that jeopardizes the safety of the jails to the full extent of the law.”

District Attorney Clark said Bennie Green, 36, of Yonkers, a former Correction Officer, was indicted on third-degree Bribe Receiving, first-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, second-degree Promoting Criminal Contraband and Official Misconduct. Barry Wells, 35, a Rikers Island inmate, was indicted on third-degree Bribery, first-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, and second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband; Starquiasha Singletary, 32, of the Bronx, a civilian, was indicted on first-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, and second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband. Green and Singletary were arraigned today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas and are due back in court on September 14, 2023. Wells will be arraigned at a later date.

According to the investigation, Wells allegedly instructed Singletary to buy him an iPhone. Through a series of calls between July 30, 2021, and August 5, 2021, Wells and Singletary made



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arrangements for the cell phone to be picked up from Singletary on August 4, 2021. Phone records revealed that Green called the cell phone multiple times on August 4, 2021. On the following day, August 5, 2021, surveillance videos show Green entering Wells' cell in the Anna M. Kross Center. A few hours later, an associate of Wells sent three separate Zelle payments to Green, totaling \$2,500.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Cassie Perez of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Sarah Clements, Supervisor of the Public Integrity Bureau, Omer Wiczuk, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Nathanielle Filius of the Public Integrity Bureau for her assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked the Department of Investigation's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Deputy Inspector General Richard Askin, under the supervision of Inspector General Whitney Ferguson and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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