



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**THREE ACS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS – INCLUDING A SUPERVISOR – CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO SMUGGLE CONTRABAND INTO BROOKLYN JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**  
**--Last week a fourth youth development specialist was charged with contraband smuggling at Crossroads--**

Three Youth Development Specialists ("YDS") employed by the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), including a supervisor, were charged today with conspiracy to commit Travel Act bribery for bringing in contraband to Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brooklyn, including marijuana and tobacco, in exchange for thousands of dollars in electronic payments. EVAN L HAMILTON, 34, of Queens, N.Y.; LINARD KING, 41, of Newark, N.J.; and DRA-QUAN WHITMORE, 34, of St. James, N.Y. were presented in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York before United States Magistrate Judge Joseph A. Marutollo and released on secured bonds.

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the charges made in an investigation conducted in partnership with the Offices of Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), New York Field Office, and Joseph Nocella, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, which is handling the prosecution.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Contraband smuggling in juvenile detention centers poses unacceptable risks to these residential facilities, endangering juveniles and staff alike. These charges, and the arrest of a fourth youth development specialist last week for this conduct, sends a clear message – DOI and our federal partners are watching and we will hold accountable City employees who use their positions of trust to enrich themselves rather than to protect the residents in their care."

According to the three Complaints, approximately 176 residents ranging from ages 14 to 20 are detained at Crossroads, and approximately 280 staff members work at the facility. Residents of Crossroads are prohibited from possessing any contraband, including narcotics, cellular telephones, cigarettes, weapons and alcohol, among other prohibited items. ACS prohibits Crossroads staff from offering or giving contraband or gifts to residents, receiving any gifts or money from residents or anyone associated with them, and having any unauthorized contact with residents or anyone associated with them. Crossroads staff receive training on these and other prohibitions.

Between approximately March 2022 and September 2025, at least 112 cell phones and approximately 699 scalpels or blades were recovered from the facility, as well as narcotics and tobacco. Based on the evidence gathered in this investigation, at least a portion of this contraband was smuggled into the facility by Crossroads staff, including the defendants.

Crossroads staff undergo a security screening when they arrive to work at the facility. Staff members' belongings are put through an X-ray machine, and all staff pass through a magnetometer (metal

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detector). Crossroads staff are required to put their personal cell phones and any other prohibited items in a locker prior to undergoing the security screening.

DRA-QUAN WHITMORE, a YDS, has been employed at Crossroads since October 2018 and supervises residents at the juvenile center. Between approximately February 2023 and April 2025, WHITMORE's Cash App account received approximately 130 payments totaling approximately \$11,121 from Crossroads residents or their associates. The subject lines of the payments demonstrate that WHITMORE smuggled contraband into Crossroads in exchange for money. For example, on or about April 29, 2025, WHITMORE received \$420 in WHITMORE's Cash App account under a subject line with letters and symbols that referred to marijuana, rolling papers, and tobacco. The alleged conduct also included WHITMORE communicating with at least four contraband cell phones that were present in the Crossroads residence halls. Between approximately February 2023 and April 2024, WHITMORE had approximately 124 calls with the contraband phones. Communications between residents and their associates from contraband phones found inside Crossroads confirm that WHITMORE brought contraband into Crossroads in exchange for bribes. For example, on or about July 17, 2025, a family member of a resident received a text instructing her to send \$260 to WHITMORE's Cash App account. Shortly after, the family member texted a screenshot to the resident showing that the money was sent. Cash App records confirm that WHITMORE received this payment.

WHITMORE is suspended until November 9, 2025 and is expected to return to modified duty, with no contact with residents. He is receiving an annual salary of approximately \$68,537.

LINARD KING, an Associate YDS, has been employed at Crossroads since September 2015 and is a supervisor of other YDSs. Between approximately July 2022 and October 2022, KING communicated with at least six contraband cell phones that were present in the Crossroads residence halls. Six of these phones were subsequently found and recovered by ACS staff. Furthermore, between approximately April 2022 and September 2022, KING's Cash App account received approximately 88 payments totaling approximately \$7,291 from Crossroads residents or their associates. Text messages on phones associated with residents at Crossroads, which were recovered as part of this investigation, showed residents instructing associates on how to make payments to KING's Cash App account followed by screenshots of payment to KING's Cash App account. On other occasions, residents contacted KING directly and KING would subsequently receive payments to his Cash App account. Similar text messages also showed the type of contraband KING was smuggling in, specifically marijuana and tobacco.

KING is on active duty with ACS. He is receiving an annual salary of approximately \$81,537.

EVAN HAMILTON, a YDS, has been employed at Crossroads since November 2019 and supervises residents at the juvenile center. HAMILTON communicated with at least two contraband cell phones which were present in the Crossroads residence halls. These phones were subsequently found and recovered by ACS staff. HAMILTON also communicated with the father of a Crossroads resident who has paid bribes to other Crossroads staff members, even though, as set forth above, Crossroads staff members are prohibited from communicating with residents' family or associates without prior authorization. Furthermore, between approximately February 2022 and April 2023, HAMILTON's Cash App and Zelle accounts received more than 100 payments totaling approximately \$5,051 from Crossroads residents or their associates. These communications and payments demonstrate that HAMILTON smuggled contraband into Crossroads in exchange for money. Additionally, messages between a Crossroads resident and HAMILTON show that HAMILTON facilitated payments from the resident to another YDS at Crossroads. On or about January 16, 2023, a resident used a contraband phone to message HAMILTON instructing him to transfer \$100 to another Crossroads staff member through Zelle. Subsequent messages suggest that HAMILTON sent the staff member \$100 and marijuana. Even after HAMILTON stopped receiving bribes in his Cash App or Zelle accounts, he continued to facilitate payments for residents. Between May 2024 and December 2024, HAMILTON sent approximately \$2,350 to associates of a resident in contravention of Crossroads rules, which prohibit any unauthorized contact with residents or their associates and family members.

HAMILTON has been on leave since June 10, 2025. He is receiving a salary of approximately \$67,356.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI New York Field Office, and his staff, and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Joseph Nocella Jr.

and the Office's Public Integrity Section, for their partnership on the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew D. Grubin and Andrew D. Wang are in charge of the prosecution.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Assistant Inspector General Shameika Nixon and Special Investigator Danielle Melian of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS and was supervised by Deputy Inspector General Gladys Cambi, Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

A criminal complaint 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.*

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