



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #02-2026
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026**

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**FORMER CIVILIAN PROGRAM COUNSELOR AT CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION SENTENCED
TO THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES TO SMUGGLE CONTRABAND INTO RIKERS ISLAND**

Christopher Ryan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing today of a former civilian Program Counselor with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") to three months' imprisonment, to be followed by two years of supervised release, of which the first three months will be served on home detention, for accepting approximately \$7,392 in bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband - marijuana, tobacco and drug-soaked papers - to persons in custody at the Rose M. Singer Enhanced Supervision Housing unit ("RESH") on Rikers Island. DOC notified DOI of the discovery of suspected marijuana in the defendant's desk at one of the Rikers Island facilities, prompting this investigation. DOI investigated this matter with the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and the office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which prosecuted the case.

NATHANEAL HENRY, 34, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was charged in May 2025 with one count each of Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe by an Agent of an Organization Receiving Federal Funds and Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance. The defendant pled guilty in August 2025 to one count of Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe by an Agent of an Organization Receiving Federal Funds and was sentenced today in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York by District Judge Ronnie Abrams.

Acting DOI Commissioner Christopher Ryan said, "By accepting bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband and drugs into Rikers Island, this former DOC Program Counselor exploited his position of authority and trust, compromising the well-being and safety of his colleagues, as well as the persons in custody he was counseling. Today's sentencing underscores this message: contraband smuggling destabilizes our City jails and undermines public safety. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their continued partnership and commitment in the effort to hold accountable those who compromise our City's jails."

According to the criminal complaint, between October 2023 and June 2024, HENRY repeatedly abused his position of trust when he accepted thousands of dollars in bribes from four different inmates and their associates in exchange for smuggling contraband into RESH on at least five occasions. HENRY accepted bribes of between \$720 and up to \$1,500 on each occasion.

- The defendant smuggled contraband for Inmate-1 in exchange for bribes on at least two occasions. First, the defendant accepted a \$1,200 bribe in exchange for smuggling tobacco and marijuana into RESH for Inmate-1. At Inmate-1's direction, the defendant met with a non-

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incarcerated co-conspirator (“CC-1”) in Brooklyn, during which CC-1 paid the defendant \$1,200 in cash and provided him with two vacuum-sealed packages—one containing tobacco and one containing marijuana. The defendant smuggled the packages into Inmate-1’s facility by concealing them on his “mid-section,” hid them inside some paperwork, and delivered them to Inmate-1. Second, the defendant accepted a \$720 bribe in exchange for smuggling two additional packages of tobacco and marijuana into Inmate-1’s facility. Specifically, at Inmate-1’s direction, the defendant again met with CC-1 in Brooklyn, during which CC-1 provided the defendant with two packages: one containing marijuana and one containing tobacco. CC-1 also paid the defendant a \$720 bribe on Cash App. The defendant then smuggled the packages into Inmate-1’s facility using the same method before and provided the tobacco package to Inmate-1 by again concealing it in some paperwork. However, the defendant determined that the package of marijuana was too large to covertly deliver to the defendant, so he hid it in a filing cabinet in the facility. The package was later discovered, leading to an investigation that ultimately implicated the defendant.

- The defendant accepted \$1,500 in bribes in exchange for smuggling tobacco and marijuana into RESH for Inmate-2. In particular, the defendant was paid \$1,500 on Cash App by a non-incarcerated individual (“CC-2”) and then purchased tobacco and marijuana, borrowed a vacuum sealer from a third party, packaged the tobacco and marijuana in separate packages, and then smuggled those packages into Inmate-2’s facility and delivered the packages to Inmate-2.
- The defendant accepted \$1,500 in bribes in exchange for smuggling marijuana, tobacco, and drug-soaked papers into RESH for Inmate-3. Specifically, the defendant received \$1,500 either in cash or on Cash App from a non-incarcerated individual (“CC-3”), who also provided the defendant with vacuum-sealed packages of marijuana, tobacco, and drug-soaked papers. The defendant then smuggled those items into Inmate-3’s facility and delivered the packages to Inmate-3.
- The defendant accepted \$972 in bribes in exchange for smuggling marijuana into RESH for Inmate-4.
- The defendant also received a bribe payment of approximately \$1,500 via Cash App.

Henry began employment at DOC in December 2022 and as a result of this investigation he resigned in July 2024. At the time of his resignation, he was receiving a salary of approximately \$60,880.

Acting DOI Commissioner Ryan thanked Jay Clayton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, for his office’s partnership on this investigation, which was handled by the Public Corruption Unit’s Co-Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Sobelman. Acting Commissioner Ryan also thanked the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their work on the investigation, and DOC Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie and her agency’s Special Investigative Unit for their cooperation and assistance.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DOC’s Investigator Matty Lupinacci and was supervised by Assistant Inspector General Sasha Holguin, Deputy Inspector General Sony Fortune, Inspector General Marissa Carro, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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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