



The City of New York
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FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR SUBMITTING FALSE INFORMATION RELATED TO A WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM

Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and Lucy Lang, Inspector General of New York State Inspector General, issued the following statement on today's sentencing of a former City Department of Correction ("DOC") Officer for making a false statement in connection with a workers' compensation claim relating to an incident that took place at a DOC facility. DOI began its investigation after receiving reports from several City agencies, including the City Law Department, about excessive workers' compensation claims involving City correction officers. DOI investigated this matter with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, which is prosecuting this case, and the New York State Inspector General.

TODD FAUSTIN, 44, of Coram, N.Y., pled guilty in March to making a false statement related to healthcare matters, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1035(a)(2), before U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and was sentenced today by Judge Liman to 15 months incarceration followed by one year of supervised release and as part of his plea agreement was ordered to pay both restitution and forfeiture, each in the amount of \$370,336.79. He is scheduled to surrender on September 22, 2026.

DOI Commissioner Nadia I. Shihata said, "This defendant betrayed his position of trust as a City Correction Officer by falsely claiming injuries he did not suffer to fraudulently obtain workers' compensation benefits. Thankfully, he is no longer employed by the City Department of Correction and, in addition to prison time, as part of his sentence must repay the City funds he illegally obtained. I thank the Law Department for referring these concerns to DOI, and for its assistance in this investigation. I also thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the New York State Inspector General for their partnership in exposing this fraud and holding accountable those who exploit public funds."

New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang said, "Today's sentencing sends a clear message: those who violate public trust and exploit worker protections will be held accountable. Fraudulent claims deprive injured workers of the support they deserve and erode the integrity of our public institutions. With thanks to my colleagues and to our partners at DOI and SDNY, my office remains committed to working with law enforcement to safeguard taxpayer resources and uphold New Yorkers' trust."

According to the Indictment, plea agreement, and statements made in court: the New York State Worker's Compensation Board (the "Board") administers New York State's no-fault workers' compensation system, which guarantees medical care and cash benefits to people who are injured at work, including employees of the DOC. Payments by the Board made to DOC employees are paid from the New York City Treasury. For years, FAUSTIN was employed by the DOC as a correction officer and was assigned to work at Rikers Island. During that time, FAUSTIN falsely claimed that he was injured while on duty at Rikers

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Island during incidents with incarcerated individuals requiring the use of force. In total, FAUSTIN received at least \$370,336.79 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

To reduce the risk of future fraud, DOI issued a [May 2025 report](#) in connection with this investigation, and recommended reforms to the DOC and the New York City Law Department's policies and procedures.

FAUSTIN was employed by DOC beginning in December 2011, was suspended in connection with this investigation in May 2025, and submitted his resignation letter to DOC, effective March 17, 2026. At the time of his resignation, FAUSTIN's annual salary was approximately \$105,146.

Commissioner Shihata thanked Jay Clayton, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, for his office's partnership on this case, which is being prosecuted by the office's Civil Rights Unit in the Criminal Division and the Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kaiya Arroyo and Stephanie Simon are in charge of the prosecution.

Commissioner Shihata also thanked New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang for her office's partnership, including Investigator Lisa Lingenfelter, Investigator Zoë Swenson, Attorney-in-Charge of Gaming Matters Rachel Brown, and Attorney-in-Charge for Workers' Compensation Fraud Bryan Richmond, under the supervision of Downstate Chief of Investigations Ben Defibaugh, New York City Deputy Inspector General Ken Michaels, and Chief Deputy Inspector General Michele Bayer. Additionally, Commissioner Shihata thanked the New York City agencies that reported these matters to DOI, including the City Law Department.

At DOI, the case was investigated by Assistant Inspector General Gina Diaz, Deputy Inspector General Trenton Sweeney, and Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Freeman of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Law Department, under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Andrew Sein, Acting Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Audrey Feldman and Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan.

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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