



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSE STATEMENT CHARGE  
RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM**

Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and Lucy Lang, Inspector General for the State of New York, issued the following statement on today's guilty plea by a former City Department of Correction ("DOC") Officer to a charge of making a false statement in connection with a workers' compensation claim he made relating to an alleged 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 office of the New York State Inspector General.

DOI Commissioner Nadia I. Shihata said, "With today's guilty plea, this former New York City correction officer is held accountable for falsely stating he had an on-the-job injury caused by a use-of-force incident, and must forfeit over \$200,000 in workers' compensation benefits he was not entitled to receive. This conviction, and DOI's public report and recommendations on abuse of the workers' compensation system by DOC employees, should serve as a powerful deterrent to this type of criminal misconduct. 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 continuing commitment to protecting funds that should be preserved for those employees who experience real on-the-job injuries."

New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang said, "This New York City Department of Correction officer breached his duty and undermined the public trust, compromising both the integrity of the workers' compensation system and the well-being of incarcerated New Yorkers. Thank you to my team and to our partners at the New York City Department of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for their partnership in safeguarding the systems that support New York's workers, and holding accountable those whose greed gives public servants a bad name."

JOVANNY CONCEPCION, 34, of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., pled guilty 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; he is scheduled to be sentenced on September 10, 2026. CONCEPCION agreed to pay forfeiture in the amount of \$232,427, which represents proceeds from the commission of the offense; and restitution in the amount of \$232,427.

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, CONCEPCION was employed by the DOC as a correction officer and was assigned to work at Rikers Island. During that time, CONCEPCION falsely claimed that he was injured while on duty at Rikers Island during incidents with incarcerated individuals requiring the use of force, and made false

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statements to the Board, their own physicians, and independent medical examiners claiming these fake injuries. In total, CONCEPCION received at least \$232,427 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.

CONCEPCION began his employment at DOC in June 2017 and at the time of his resignation in April 2021, CONCEPCION was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$60,355.

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 Criminal Civil Rights Unit 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, Confidential Investigator Joseph Safer-Bakal, 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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