



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2026

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CAPTAIN INDICTED
FOR EXTORTION AND WAGE FRAUD SCHEME

Defendant Allegedly Extorted Subordinates for Money, a Louis Vuitton Handbag, and
Personal Errands, and Defrauded The City of Thousands of Dollars in Wages

Earlier today, in federal court in Brooklyn, an indictment was unsealed charging Latanya Brown with extortion and federal program funds theft. Brown is a Captain with the New York City Department of Correction (DOC). The indictment charges Brown with two counts of extortion and one count of fraudulently obtaining funds from a federally funded government agency. Brown was arrested today and will be arraigned this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Seth D. Eichenholtz.

Joseph Nocella, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; James C. Barnacle, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office (FBI); and Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the indictment and arrest.

"As alleged, the defendant brazenly abused her authority as a law enforcement supervisor to steal taxpayer money and terrorize her subordinates by shaking them down for money, expensive gifts, and chauffeuring her to run personal errands, including trips to a casino while she was on duty," stated United States Attorney Nocella. "Our Office will vigorously prosecute corrupt government officials who betray the public's trust, and where applicable as in this case, seek forfeiture of ill-gotten funds."

"Captain Latanya Brown allegedly abused her rank and strongarmed her subordinates to support her lavish lifestyle. The FBI is determined to aggressively pursue and hold accountable government officials who steal American taxpayer dollars while engaging in corrupt misconduct for personal enrichment," stated FBI Assistant Director in Charge Barnacle.

“As a New York City Correction Captain, this defendant was entrusted with great authority, including over those she supervised. Instead of setting the example by upholding the highest standards of integrity and fairness, as charged, this Correction Captain allegedly used her power to extort luxury gifts, money, and personal favors from her subordinates in exchange for approving overtime, schedule changes, and vacation time,” stated DOI Commissioner Shihata. “The indictment also charges that on more than 100 occasions in 2024 and 2025 the defendant allegedly collected thousands of dollars in regular and overtime pay for hours she did not work — coming to work late and leaving her post early, including to go to a casino. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the New York Office of the FBI for their continued partnership in protecting taxpayer funds and holding public employees accountable.”

As alleged in the indictment, Brown has been employed by the DOC since October 2001 and has held the rank of Captain since July 2007. Between approximately July 2024 and November 2025, Brown was assigned to Rikers Island's Facility Operations Department as a DOC supervisor. Between approximately November 2025 and December 2025, Brown was assigned to New York State courthouses located in the Bronx. As a Captain, Brown supervised other correction officers and was responsible for approving employee requests for shift-schedule changes, overtime shifts, and vacation time. In 2024 and 2025, Brown regularly threatened to withhold approvals for shift changes, overtime shifts, and vacation time requests for her officers unless they agreed to pay her money, buy luxury items for her, and/or perform personal errands for her. For example, in December 2024, Brown forced several officers to buy an expensive Louis Vuitton bag for her. When Brown made her demand, she made statements to the DOC officers implying, in sum and substance, that their shift assignments, overtime shifts, and vacation time would be in jeopardy unless they purchased the luxury item. Additionally, on numerous occasions, Brown forced officers to drive her while on duty for non-work-related purposes, such as visits to restaurants, bars, and a casino.

In 2024 and 2025, Brown received more than \$250,000 in regular pay and more than \$400,000 in overtime pay. However, on more than 100 occasions during this time period, Brown submitted documentation to the DOC claiming that she had worked the entirety of regular and overtime shifts, when in fact she actually arrived to work several hours late or left work several hours early on those occasions. On some occasions, when Brown left her assigned posting early, she did so to spend time at the Empire City Casino in Yonkers, New York. For example, on November 21, 2024, Brown claimed in documentation submitted to the DOC to have worked from 5:00 a.m. until 9:31 p.m. on Rikers Island. However, Brown was not at Rikers Island during the entirety of that shift and instead arrived at the casino that day at approximately 2:34 p.m. Nevertheless, Brown was compensated by the DOC as if she had worked her full shift and at least seven hours of overtime.

The charges in the indictment are allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. If convicted, Brown faces up to 20 years in prison.

The government's case is being handled by the Office's Public Integrity Section. Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew Grubin and Andrew Wang are in charge of the prosecution with assistance from Paralegal Specialist Johnson Peow.

The Defendant:

LATANYA BROWN

Age: 51

Yonkers, New York

E.D.N.Y. Docket No. 26-CR-168 (MKB)