



The City of New York
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**CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSE STATEMENT CHARGE
RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM**

Christopher Ryan, Acting 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 guilty plea by a 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 New York State Inspector General.

TODD FAUSTIN, 43, of Coram, 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 July 7, 2026. FAUSTIN agreed to pay both restitution and forfeiture, each in the amount of \$370,336.79.

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 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.

Acting DOI Commissioner Christopher Ryan said, "New York City's workers' compensation system exists to support employees who are legitimately injured on the job—not to be exploited for personal gain. Today's guilty plea holds this DOC officer accountable for abusing a vital system intended to protect City workers. 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 protect these crucial funds."

New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang said, "Exploitation of the workers' compensation system – especially for a public servant who has sworn an oath to our community – both corrodes public integrity and siphons critical resources away from the honest workers the system exists to protect. Our

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office will continue to work aggressively with our partners to hold to account anyone who undermines New York's protections for workers and New Yorkers' trust in government."

FAUSTIN has been employed by DOC since 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 \$109,350.

Acting Commissioner Ryan 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.

Acting Commissioner Ryan 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, Acting Commissioner 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.

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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