

**Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor
for the City of New York**

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Correction Officer Arrested On Bribery and Drug Charges: Promised to Free Prisoner in Exchange for Three Kilos of Cocaine

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a Correction Officer with the New York City Department of Correction and an accomplice on charges of bribe receiving and drug possession.

ROBERT WHITFIELD, a veteran correction officer assigned to Rikers Island, was taken into custody in the Inwood section of Manhattan at approximately 5:30 p.m. yesterday. The arrest was the result of a long-term investigation by the DEA's New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and DOI.

Earlier this year, authorities learned that WHITFIELD had attempted to solicit a bribe from an inmate at Rikers Island. WHITFIELD promised he could secure the inmate's early release in exchange for cash or drugs. Subsequently, an undercover DEA agent spoke to WHITFIELD on the phone and agreed to deliver three kilos (6 ½ lbs.) of cocaine to WHITFIELD in exchange for the inmate's early release from incarceration. During this recorded phone conversation, the undercover agent and WHITFIELD referred to the three kilos in coded language. The undercover agent and WHITFIELD had additional phone conversations in which they worked out details of their plan.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. yesterday, the undercover agent met with WHITFIELD's designated intermediary, ISLIME DUVIVIER, at a prearranged meeting place near the intersection of Broadway and Dyckman Street in Inwood. Duvivier accepted the three kilos from the undercover agent and was immediately placed under arrest. A short time later, members of the DEA Strike Force and DOI investigators stopped WHITFIELD's car on Dyckman Street, two blocks away from the meeting place, and took him into custody.

A criminal complaint charges WHITFIELD with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the

First Degree, Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, Bribe Receiving in the First and Second Degree, Conspiracy in the Second and Fourth Degree and Official Misconduct. DUVIVIER is charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree and Conspiracy in the Second and Fourth Degree. Both are expected to be arraigned today in Manhattan Criminal Court.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN said, “The overwhelming majority of correction officers are people of integrity, who take their positions of authority seriously. The charges in this case accuse one correction officer of betraying the public’s trust in a most reprehensible way. Robert Whitfield is alleged to have used his power at Rikers Island and his access to incarcerated drug dealers for his personal financial gain. Not only is he accused of soliciting bribes to free an inmate, but he is charged with taking payment in cocaine. His plan would have released three kilos of a dangerous drug and a jailed felon onto the streets of New York City.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge JOHN P. GILBRIDE stated, “To the many brave men and women in law enforcement the illegal action of Robert Whitfield is a betrayal to those who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe from numerous crimes and danger. DEA worked in an undercover capacity along with the Department of Investigations in order to thwart an alleged prison break that would have been funded by drugs and money. This investigation identified this individual who swore an oath to keep prisoners in jail when in reality he was going to attempt to break unknown individuals out of jail only to make a profit.”

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said, “This disgraced correction officer took corruption to a new level, according to the criminal complaint. He bartered his jailhouse access for a large cache of dangerous and illegal drugs, conspired to release inmates he was supposed to guard, and betrayed the public trust, it is charged. Fortunately, DOI and its law enforcement partners exposed and stopped this perilous charged scheme.”

This case was initiated by the DEA’s New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force which is comprised of agents and officers of the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the New York City Police Department, Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the New York State Police, the U. S. Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the U.S. Marshal Service and with assistance from the New York City Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office. The Strike Force is partially funded by the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), which is a federally funded crime fighting initiative.

ARRESTED DEFENDANTS

CHARGES

Robert Whitfield

8/20/1962
137-29 241st St.
Queens

CPCS 1st
Conspiracy – CPCS 1st
Bribe Receiving 1st
Bribe Receiving 2nd
Conspiracy 2nd
Conspiracy 4th
Official Misconduct

Islime Duvivier

4/19/1962
117-14 146th St.
Queens

CPCS 1st
Conspiracy 2nd
Conspiracy 4th

The charges and allegations are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.