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65-2017
For Immediate Release
August 16, 2017

**NYC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO
SMUGGLING SCALPELS COMMONLY USED IN SLASHINGS INTO RIKERS
ISLAND**

**Defendant Acted as Ringleader in Web of Corruption; Received Thousands of Dollars in
Bribes for Contraband**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a New York City Department of Correction officer has pleaded guilty to receiving bribes and other crimes for leading a scheme in which he smuggled scalpels, narcotics and other contraband into Rikers Island in exchange for thousands of dollars as part of a conspiracy with 17 other people.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant disrespected his badge and his fellow Correction Officers by taking bribes, bringing in contraband and adding to the climate of danger and fear that makes Rikers Island notorious for brutality. His crimes show the range corruption can reach and the ends some will go to propagate jailhouse violence. However, our work with DOI shows our commitment to relentlessly prosecuting these cases and maintaining order in our city's jails."

Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This Correction Officer chose crime over the law he was sworn to protect, and cash bribes over integrity. This conviction now writes this defendant's legacy as a key player in one of the largest jail contraband smuggling cases in the last decade, which included investigators uncovering a stash of 16 scalpels slated for delivery and distribution inside Rikers Island. DOI's work in this area, and many others that breed violence in our City jails, is very active and ongoing."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Kevin McKoy, 32, of Brooklyn pleaded guilty today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett to third-degree Bribe Receiving, first-degree Promoting Prison Contraband and Official Misconduct. He will be sentenced to two to six years on August 31, 2017.

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According to the investigation, McKoy, who was a Correction Officer assigned to the Anna M. Kross Center (AMKC) Quad "12 Upper" housing area, received bribes totaling at least \$10,000 for bringing in scalpels wrapped in duct tape to avoid metal detectors, K2, (synthetic marijuana) and suboxone (opioid) strips to inmates.

The main conspiracy took place from September 12, 2015 to November 24, 2015. Inmates would call family members or friends and instruct them to give contraband and cash to McKoy, whom they referred to as "The Plug," "Ticks-and-Fleas" and other nicknames, and McKoy would contact them to arrange pickup of the items.

McKoy was arrested on November 24, 2015 at AMKC with seven scalpels tucked in a leg of his longjohns. Nine other scalpels were found in a search at his Brooklyn home, which McKoy admitted were also headed for the jail. McKoy made statements after his arrest that he had been bringing in contraband to inmates for money for about a year.

District Attorney Clark thanked DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Correction, specifically Assistant Inspector General Richard Askin and Special Investigator Michael Garcia, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Paul Cronin, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ann Lee of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Omer Wiczysk, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau; James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau; Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau; Deanna G. Logan, Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau; Mary Jo Blanchard, Counsel to the Investigations Division; Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division; and Jean T. Walsh, Executive Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Investigations Division.