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NYC DOC OFFICER, 3 INMATES AND TWO OTHERS INDICTED FOR SMUGGLING MARIJUANA INTO RIKERS ISLAND

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters today announced that a New York City Department of Correction officer, three inmates and two other individuals have been indicted for smuggling marijuana into a Rikers Island jail.

District Attorney Clark said, "This officer allegedly betrayed his fellow officers, as well as fostered the criminal network inside and outside of Rikers Island that runs on contraband. Smuggling marijuana or any other item that fuels corruption and violence in jail is a serious crime, no matter who does it. We will continue to work with DOI, DOC, the NYPD and other law enforcement partners to improve safety in the jails. "

Commissioner Peters said, "Contraband smuggling remains one of DOI's highest priorities towards the goal of eliminating violence and corruption from DOC jail facilities across the City. This ring of inmates, outside co-conspirators and a Correction Officer on the take made it possible for illegal contraband to infiltrate Rikers Island, further adding to the destabilizing forces at work that lead to disorder and corruption, according to the charges. DOI thanks its partners at the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their assistance and prosecution of these cases."

District Attorney Clark said Correction Officer Pedro Santiago, 26, is charged with third-degree Bribe Receiving, second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, Official Misconduct, fifth-degree Criminal Possession of Marijuana, unlawful Possession of Marijuana and fifth and sixth-degree Conspiracy. He was arraigned today and is due back in court on December 6, 2018.

The other defendants were arraigned earlier this month, and they are charged with third-degree Bribery, second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband, and fifth and sixth-degree Conspiracy. The defendants are identified as former inmates Joshua Rodriguez, 27, of Brooklyn; Kelvin Dalrymple, 26, of Queens and Ricardo Brown, 29, of Queens; and Andrew Rivera, 25, of
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Brooklyn; and Meisha Nelson, 27, of Mount Vernon, NY.

According to the investigation, Santiago allegedly accepted between \$500 and \$800 in exchange for bringing an ounce or more of marijuana into the Anna M. Kross Center on each of three occasions in June and July 2017. The inmate defendants allegedly had instructed defendants Rivera and Nelson to deliver cash and marijuana to Santiago. He then brought the marijuana into the facility.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Brian Connor of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Ilya Kharkover, Supervisor of the Public Integrity Bureau, and Omer Wiczky, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of Investigation's Office of the Inspector General for DOC, specifically Special Investigators Robert Ellis and Ali Fayad, Deputy Inspectors General Richard Askin, Reginald Barometre, and Whitney Ferguson, under the supervision of Inspector General Dana A. Roth, Associate Commissioner Paul Cronin, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Susan Lambiase, and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.