



DARCEL D. CLARK

DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

**198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234**



23-2026

For Immediate Release

February 27, 2026

**FORMER NYC DOC OFFICER SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING
CONTRABAND WORTH \$15,000 INTO RIKERS ISLAND
Defendant Illegally Smuggled 200 Cigarettes and Cell Phone**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a former NYC Department of Correction Officer was sentenced to probation and ordered to pay restitution for taking a bribe to smuggle cigarettes and a cell phone into Rikers Island.

District Attorney Clark said, “Correction Officers protect, serve, and embody public trust. This defendant’s misconduct placed his fellow officers, and the people incarcerated in jeopardy, by smuggling valuable commodities that fuel violence. He tarnished Correction Officers reputation and broke his oath for \$3,000. Now, he’s on probation for three years and must pay restitution.”

Acting NYC Department of Investigation Commissioner Christopher Ryan said, “This defendant accepted thousands of dollars in bribes in return for smuggling cell phones and cigarettes into the Rikers Island jail facility, compromising the security of the facility and placing his fellow officers and persons in custody at risk. Today’s sentence publicly holds him accountable for his criminal actions and requires he pay the City what he took in bribes. I thank the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office for its partnership on this investigation and the Department of Correction for its cooperation.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Kendell Felix, 38, was sentenced February 26, 2026, by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Connie Morales to three years’ probation and ordered to pay \$3,000 and participate in two years of programming. The prosecution had asked for a sentence of one to three years in state prison. The defendant pleaded guilty to third-degree Bribe Receiving on January 8, 2026.

According to the investigation, between August 25 to 27, 2024, Felix was working as a Correction Officer assigned to the North Infirmarium Command when he smuggled in 200 cigarettes



DARCEL D. CLARK

DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET

BRONX, N.Y. 10451

(718) 590-2234



and a cell phone in exchange for \$3,000. Cigarettes are sold for \$50 to \$100 each in Rikers Island jails, and the estimated value of the contraband smuggled in by Felix was worth approximately \$15,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tyler Gibson, under the supervision of Cassie Perez, Supervisor in the Public Integrity Bureau, Sarah Clements, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau and Jon Veiga, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detective Daniel Angen of the Bronx DA's Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Louis Meade, for their work in the investigation.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYC Department of Investigation Correction Officer Investigator Brian Hilario, supervised by Assistant Inspector General Sasha Holguin, Deputy Inspector General Sony Fortune, Inspector General Whitney Ferguson, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella for their work on the case.