



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER
COMMISSIONER

180 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #41-2024
nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO KICK
A PERSON IN CUSTODY WHO WAS RESTRAINED BY OTHERS**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest and guilty plea of a Correction Officer with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") in connection with attempting to kick a restrained Person in Custody ("PIC") in Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward in May 2024. The incident was captured on surveillance video. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is prosecuting the case.

CAROL GARCIA, 54, was arrested and charged today with Attempted Assault in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor, and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. The defendant pleaded to both counts as part of a plea agreement. Pursuant to that agreement, the defendant must complete 10 days of community service, attend all court appearances and not be arrested for the next six months. If the defendant successfully fulfills these obligations, the prosecution will ask that the court allow the defendant to withdraw her guilty plea to Attempted Assault in the Third Degree and she will be sentenced to time served for the Harassment offense.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "There is no excuse for this defendant, or any Correction Officer, to attempt to assault a person in custody. The victim here was restrained at the time that the defendant tried to kick him, and did not pose a threat to her. Correction Officers face violence on the job, and other tremendous challenges, as this defendant did, but that cannot justify her attempted use of force. I thank the City Department of Correction for its cooperation during this investigation and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office for its partnership on this investigation and prosecution."

According to the plea agreement, and as the defendant admitted at the plea proceeding, at approximately 3:20 p.m. on May 6, 2024, while GARCIA was assigned as a Correction Officer at the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward ("BHPW"), PIC Ramon Rivera ("Rivera") approached GARCIA, struck her in the leg with his foot and smacked her across the face. BHPW staff, assisted by other inmates, immediately pulled Rivera away from GARCIA, restrained him, and pinned him on the floor. GARCIA approached Rivera, pulled back her right foot, and kicked at Rivera, intending to cause Rivera physical injury and to harass him.

GARCIA has been employed by DOC since November 2005 and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$101,590.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and his staff for their prosecution of this matter; and DOC Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie and her staff for their cooperation in this investigation.

more

The case is being prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office specifically, Assistant District Attorney Tavish Deatley of the Manhattan District Attorney's Police Accountability Unit ("PAU") and supervised by Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the PAU Nick Viorst.

The investigation was conducted by Confidential Investigator Alethea Cruz and Correction Officer Investigator Anthony Palmer with DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC and was supervised by Assistant Inspector General Alexandra Caruana, Acting Inspector General Marissa Carro, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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.

DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/NYC_DOI

Know something rotten in City government? Help DOI Get the Worms Out of the Big Apple.

Call: 212-3-NYC-DOI or email: Corruption@DOI.nyc.gov