



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PARENT OF RESIDENT AT BROOKLYN JUVENILE CENTER PLEADS GUILTY TO  
BRIBING A CITY EMPLOYEE TO BRING IN SCALPELS AND MARIJUANA TO THE FACILITY**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on today’s guilty plea by JESSICA ALICEA, 44, of Brooklyn, N.Y., to one count of federal program bribery for providing more than \$10,000 in total to a City Administration for Children’s Services’ (“ACS”) Youth Development Specialist to smuggle contraband into Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brooklyn. The criminal conduct occurred between August 2022 and February 2024. U.S. District Judge Orelia E. Merchant accepted ALICEA’s plea and scheduled her sentencing for April 15, 2025. DOI investigated this matter with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and the office of U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, which is handling the prosecution.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “Contraband smuggling at juvenile detention centers jeopardizes the safety and security of both staff and residents of these City facilities. Today’s conviction sends the important message that bribing staff to introduce dangerous contraband will have serious consequences. I thank the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York for its partnership on this important investigation and prosecution.”

According to court documents and information presented in court, ALICEA provided approximately \$14,000 in total, in approximately 136 transactions, to ACS Youth Development Specialist DA’VANTE BOLTON to smuggle scalpels and marijuana into the Crossroads Juvenile Center. BOLTON was convicted earlier this year for accepting bribes in exchange for smuggling in contraband into Crossroads. (To read more about those cases, [please click here](#).)

Approximately 120 residents, ranging in age from 14 to 20, are detained at Crossroads. Residents at Crossroads are prohibited from possessing any contraband, including narcotics, cellular telephones, cigarettes, weapons and alcohol. ACS employees at Crossroads are trained to confiscate any contraband they find and must notify a supervisor if any contraband is discovered. Between approximately March 2022 and May 2024, at least 75 cell phones and more than 340 scalpels or blades were recovered from the facility, as well as narcotics and tobacco. Youth Development Specialists at Crossroads are responsible for supervising residents.

Commissioner Strauber thanked United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Breon Peace, and the FBI’s Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office James E. Dennehy, and their staff, for their partnership on this investigation.

The government’s case is being handled by the Office’s Public Integrity Section. Assistant United States Attorneys Philip Pilmar and Andrew D. Grubin and Special Assistant United States Attorney Cassie Perez of the Bronx District Attorney’s Office are in charge of the prosecution.

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At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Confidential Investigator Shameika Nixon and Special Investigator Danielle Melian of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS and was supervised by Deputy Inspector General Gladys Cambi, Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, 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.*

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