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For Immediate Release

Two Downstate Women Arrested at Visitor's Process Building

Visitors Arrested Attempting to Bring Drugs Into Prison

Dansville , NY - Two downstate women were arrested at the visitor's process building that serves both Livingston and Groveland Correctional Facilities attempting to bring drugs into the prisons during separate visits with inmates.

Both incidents occurred on Sunday, April 2, at approximately 6:45 and 6:50AM. Both women were proceeding through the visitor's process building when a K9, who was with his handler in the building, was alerted to narcotics being transported by both women.

The first visitor, Evette Walker, of Brooklyn, was observed by the officer reaching into the front of her pants after the K9 detected narcotics on her. The officer approached and questioned her. She admitted being in possession of contraband. She was removed from the process area and brought into a private room where she removed the contraband, which was wrapped in an orange balloon. She handed the contraband over to the officer who opened the balloon. It appeared the balloon contained marijuana.

The New York State Police were notified and a trooper responded to the process building. The contraband was turned over to the trooper and Walker was arrested for Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Promoting Prison Contraband. She was transported to the State Police barracks for processing.

The second incident occurred five minutes later at 6:50 AM. The same K9 was alerted to narcotics inside a visitor's backpack. The K9 officer searched the backpack and located two balloons inside of a glove. The officer questioned the visitor, Cindy Velez, of the Bronx, regarding the contents of the balloons. She admitted that there was synthetic marijuana inside the balloons.

The contraband was turned over to the trooper, who was still on the scene from the previous incident. He took Velez into custody and charged her with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th and Promoting Prison Contraband. She was transported to the State Police barracks for processing.

Both inmates who Walker and Velez came to see face disciplinary charges in the incidents.

“It is well documented how much contraband has been making its way into our state prisons over the past several years. In the past five years, the number of contraband confiscations has risen to historic levels. Drugs being smuggled in through the visitor’s room plays a major role in that. These two arrests demonstrate that if the administration makes the proper investment in staffing and K9 dogs that can detect illegal drugs, we can deter others from trying to bring contraband into the prisons”, stated Joe Miano, Western Region Vice President.

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