



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**FORMER ACS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS AND ONE DAY IN PRISON FOR
ACCEPTING BRIBES IN EXCHANGE FOR SMUGGLING CONTRABAND INTO JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing earlier this week of DA'VONTE BOLTON, 32, a former Youth Development Specialist for the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), who pled guilty in October 2024 to a federal program bribery charge in connection with smuggling contraband into Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brooklyn in exchange for illegal payments. BOLTON is the third of five former Youth Development Specialists at Crossroads Juvenile Center who have been sentenced as part of this case, which DOI investigated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, which is handling the prosecution.

BOLTON, of Queens, N.Y., was sentenced on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, by U.S. District Judge Orelia E. Merchant to 12 months and one day in prison followed by two years' post release supervision, and was ordered to pay forfeiture of \$20,783. BOLTON is scheduled to surrender on January 5, 2026. Two other co-defendants were sentenced earlier this year: CHRISTOPHER CRAIG, 38, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was sentenced to 36 months' probation on April 29, 2025, and ordered to pay forfeiture of \$5,000. NIGEL KING, 47, of Queens, N.Y., was sentenced on June 5, 2025 to six months' imprisonment, one year of supervised release, and ordered to pay forfeiture of \$4,500. Two other co-defendants will be sentenced later this year: OCTAVIA NAPIER, 28, of Brooklyn, N.Y. on October 23, 2025, and ROGER FRANCIS, 60, of Brooklyn, N.Y. on December 10, 2025.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "These defendants failed the City and the juveniles in their care by accepting bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband into the Crossroads Juvenile Center, destabilizing a facility they had a duty to secure and protect. They also broke the law, and today's sentence, and the other sentences imposed to date, make clear that DOI and our federal partners will hold accountable those who jeopardize the safety of youth in the City's care. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the FBI for their commitment to maintain the safety and integrity of the City's juvenile detention centers."

Approximately 120 residents, ranging from ages 14 to 20, are detained at Crossroads. Residents at Crossroads are prohibited from possessing narcotics, cellular telephones, cigarettes, weapons, and alcohol, among other items. ACS employees at Crossroads are trained to confiscate any contraband they find and must notify a supervisor if any contraband is discovered. Despite this training, and security screening for staff at the entrance to the facility, a significant amount of contraband has recently been recovered from Crossroads residents. 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.

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BOLTON began his employment with ACS in March 2020 and was terminated by ACS in May 2025. At the time of his termination, his annual salary was approximately \$66,173. Bolton accepted more than \$20,000 in bribes from Crossroads residents or their associates in exchange for smuggling in drugs and razor blades.

CRAIG began his employment with ACS in August 2018 and resigned in October 2025, at which time he was receiving a salary of approximately \$66,173. CRAIG accepted at least \$5,000 in bribes to smuggle in contraband, including marijuana and tobacco.

KING began employment with ACS in October 2021 and resigned in August 2024, at which time he was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$59,513. KING accepted \$4,500 in bribes for smuggling in marijuana, prescription pills and alcohol.

NAPIER began employment with ACS in June 2022 and was terminated in May 2023, at which time she was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$48,545. NAPIER accepted more than \$6,200 in bribes to both smuggle in contraband and allow a Crossroads resident to use NAPIER's Cash App account to run the resident's contraband distribution business from within Crossroads.

FRANCIS began employment with ACS in May 2018, is receiving an annual salary of approximately \$67,356, and has been removed from working at the City's juvenile detention facilities. FRANCIS accepted nearly \$17,000 in bribes for smuggling marijuana and contraband phone accessories.

Commissioner Strauber thanked United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Joseph Nocella Jr. and the Office's Public Integrity Section. Assistant U.S. Attorney Philip Pilmar, the Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew D. Grubin, are in charge of the prosecution. Commissioner Strauber also thanked Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI New York Field Office, and his dedicated staff for its partnership on this investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Assistant Inspector General 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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