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Former Jail Guard Pleads Guilty to Bribe Receiving



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that MERLIN THOMAS, 48, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this afternoon.

Between August 27, 2016 and October 10, 2016, at or near the Albany County Correctional Facility, located at 840 Albany Shaker Road in the Town of Colonie, MERLIN, who was then a Sergeant at the Albany County Correctional Facility, took bribes for smuggling contraband into inmates at the facility. The contraband ranged from cigarettes to cellular telephones, which are

prohibited at the facility, and considered dangerous.

THOMAS faces (1) year in local jail when sentenced on September 1, 2017.

(12) others were charged in the smuggling ring, including several inmates who were in custody for unrelated matters and civilians who assisted the inmates in bringing the contraband in and out of the facility.

Public Integrity Unit Bureau Chief Eric Galarneau prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov

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All parties are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty