



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE STATEN ISLAND,
NEW YORK 10301

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:
December 9, 2020

Contact:
Ryan Lavis
718-556-7150

DA McMahon Announces First Indictment Under RCDA's New Public Corruption Unit: Former NYS DOCCS Parole Officer Indicted For Tampering with Public Records, Allegedly Falsified Information Related to Monitoring of Staten Island Parolees Under His Supervision

Former parole officer Joseph Poser was arraigned on an eighteen-count indictment charging him with falsifying information related to the monitoring of four different parolees under his supervision

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced RCDA's first indictment under the office's new Public Corruption Unit, which was created this year to investigate and prosecute crimes of corruption involving government employees or other individuals working on behalf of the state or city. Following a joint investigation between RCDA and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), defendant Joseph Poser was indicted and arraigned on eighteen counts of Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, a class D felony. The defendant, while employed as a parole officer for DOCCS, allegedly falsified information related to the monitoring of four different parolees under his supervision on Staten Island.

Poser, 55, was arraigned Wednesday during a virtual appearance in Staten Island Supreme Court. The judge released the defendant on his own recognizance. His next court date is _____.

“State Parole Officers are called upon to ensure formerly incarcerated individuals comply with the conditions of their release, which often include completing court-mandated mental health or drug treatment services to assist with their safe transition back into the community. In this case, the defendant completely neglected his duties by failing to properly monitor at least four parolees under his supervision and then allegedly attempted to cover it up by submitting false paperwork to his superiors.” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “My office’s newly formed Public Corruption Unit, under the leadership of ADA Jonathan Chananie, is committed to rooting out these crimes and prosecuting all egregious acts of government fraud and malfeasance on Staten Island. I would like to thank ADA Chananie for his diligent work on this case, as well as RCDA Detective Investigators John Ju-

liano and Sal Bellomo, RCDA analyst Alexandra Campanella, and Assistant Deputy Chief Eileen Vives from DOCCS Office of Special Investigation for all of their assistance with this case.”

DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci said, “Staff misconduct, especially as egregious as this, is never tolerated by the Department. Mr. Poser’s criminal actions are inexcusable, and from the outset of this investigation, DOCCS fully committed to assisting and cooperating in any way possible to bring this case swiftly to justice.”

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, Poser, while employed as a parole officer for DOCCS, allegedly made false entries in DOCCS’s computerized record-keeping system showing home visits with parolees that he had never actually conducted (including at addresses that don’t actually exist), as well as parolees’ completions of court-mandated programs that they had never actually attended. This investigation was launched after a Staten Island parolee under Poser’s supervision, Joseph Desmond, was arrested and charged in the killing of off-duty FDNY firefighter Faizal Coto in Brooklyn in 2018. An investigation between DOCCS and RCDA following Desmond’s arrest revealed numerous inconsistencies in Poser’s work as a Parole Officer for which he was ultimately charged. The defendant is accused of falsifying information related to the monitoring of at least four different parolees, including Desmond, while under his supervision.

This is RCDA’s first indictment under the office’s Public Corruption Unit. The Unit was created this year and oversees the investigation and prosecution of corruption crimes. ADA Jonathan Chananie was named the inaugural Chief of the Unit. ADA Chananie previously worked in the Manhattan DA’s Office for 13 years. He was assigned to Trial Bureau 50 of the Trials Division, where for approximately nine years he handled a wide variety of cases but mostly violent street crime. In early 2016, he transferred to the Investigations Division, specifically the Asset Forfeiture Unit. He joined RCDA in 2020 and currently serves as Chief of the office’s Public Corruption Unit as well as Deputy Bureau Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau. Prior to completing law school at the University of Virginia, ADA Chananie served as a police officer in northern Virginia for several years.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

###