



/2016
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For Immediate Release
February 17, 2016

CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING RECORDS; SHE FAILED TO MONITOR INMATE WHO DIED IN SWELTERING CELL

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a 36-year-old Department of Correction officer has pleaded guilty to falsifying Rikers Island logbook entries indicating she had checked on a mentally ill inmate who died in an overheated jail cell.

District Attorney Clark said, "The inmate, Jerome Murdough, suffered a horrible death when malfunctioning equipment caused his cell to overheat to 101 degrees, and Correction Officer Carol Lackner tried to cover up that she did not perform her duty to check on him."

Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This defendant ignored her responsibilities as a Correction Officer, failing to perform required checks and leaving her shift prematurely, while an inmate under her watch died in his cell. To cover up that misconduct, the defendant then fabricated the logs she filed with the Correction Department. When City employees fail to do their jobs, it can be a crime with a grave impact as demonstrated in this case."

District Attorney Clark said that Lackner, of Queens, pleaded guilty to first-degree falsifying business records, a felony, today in Bronx Supreme Court before Justice Steven Barrett. Lackner was sentenced to five years' probation.

Lackner failed to inspect the cells of inmates in the Anna M. Kross Center's mental observation unit during the three hours she was there on February 14, 2014, but made logbook entries claiming she did so. Murdough was found dead in his cell due to hyperthermia on February 15, 2014. His death was ruled an accident by the Medical Examiner.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ilya Kharkover of the Bronx District Attorney's Rackets Bureau.