



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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FORMER EASTMAN RYDC OFFICER JAILED ON DRUG CHARGES DJJ INVESTIGATORS MAKING CONTRABAND CHECK AT EASTMAN FACILITY

(Houston County - GA) Commissioner Avery D. Niles of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice announced today that Houston County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested an off-duty juvenile corrections officer (JCO) in connection with a suspected narcotics operation in the Warner Robins area.

Commissioner Niles said 37-year-old Frank James Fountain Jr. is a former JCO at the Eastman Regional Youth Detention Center. Fountain was officially separated from DJJ today following his arrest by deputies from the Houston County Sheriff's Office, Warner Robins Police Department and the Houston County District Attorney's Office. Fountain was jailed on felony charges of Manufacturing of Marijuana and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime.

The former DJJ employee was picked up along with several other suspects during a series of raids last week. Investigators working from a search warrant seized drug manufacturing equipment and several marijuana plants at the Kathleen, Georgia rental residence where Fountain was living alone. Deputies said Fountain did not resist arrest.

There are no immediate indications that Fountain's alleged criminal behavior may have carried over to his state correctional duties at DJJ. Houston County Sheriff's Investigators officially informed the Department of Juvenile Justice that they have no evidence at this time indicating former Juvenile Corrections Officer Frank James Fountain was taking contraband into the state facility where he worked.

Nonetheless, the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice has ordered an immediate internal affairs investigation into all contraband cases reported at the Eastman RYDC during the last two years to search for any possible traces of involvement by former JCO Fountain.

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Fountain is currently being held without bond at the Houston County Jail.

The Houston County District Attorney's Office indicates all suspects including Fountain are expected to go before a Houston County grand jury sometime in the next 60 to 90 days. More charges and indictments are expected to be handed down then and their investigation continues at this time.

Commissioner Niles, who endorses transparency when DJJ must take strong measures like today's separation of JCO Fountain from the agency said, "Regardless of employee rank or position, violators will continue to face serious consequences at DJJ for criminal behavior. I gave clear warning when I was appointed Commissioner," said Niles.

The Commissioner's' core message since his November 2012 appointment by Governor Nathan Deal has emphasized that the critical duties of the Department of Juvenile Justice are to uphold and enforce policy, ethics, and safety and security measures at Georgia's juvenile justice facilities so both DJJ detainees and staff can function in a safe and secure learning environment.

(END RELEASE)