Cuyahoga County Corrections Officer Indicted, Arrested on Bribery Charges

CLEVELAND - A corrections officer at the Cuyahoga County Jail has been indicted and arrested for accepting bribes in return for doing favors for prisoners, Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty announced.

 Corrections Officer Tim Thomas, 40, was indicted Thursday by a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury on 10 counts of Bribery, two counts of Obstructing Justice, one count of Tampering with Records and one count of Falsification. All except the Falsification count are felonies. He was arrested shortly after that by Cleveland Police officers.

 Thomas, who lives in Cleveland, was later returned to the county jail where he had worked for almost 20 years – in custody this time. He will be arraigned in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 8:30 am.

 Investigators established that between March and July of this year Thomas received at least $2,000 in cash plus a used car with a reported value of $500 in return for granting a prisoner special treatment. He also used his position to delay that prisoner’s court-ordered transfer to the state prison system, allowing the prisoner to remain at the county jail.

 “Mr. Thomas used his public service position to line his own pockets, and any jailer who violates the public trust like this will find himself sitting on the other side of the bars,” said McGinty. “We simply cannot tolerate such corruption in Cuyahoga County. We intend to pursue public corruption vigorously whenever and wherever it arises.”