



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Announces Sentencing of Former Correctional Officer for Gang Participation and Contraband Smuggling

Correctional Officer Led Double Life as Gang Leader

BALTIMORE, MD (September 18, 2019) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced the sentencing of Antoine Fordham, 33, a former Maryland correctional officer, for various gang and contraband offenses. Earlier this year, Fordham pled guilty to conspiracy to establish and entrench a gang, participating in a criminal gang, committing a felonious hate crime, soliciting assault in the first degree, misconduct in office, and possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Judge William C. Mulford, II of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County sentenced Fordham to 35 years' incarceration, with all but 20 years suspended.

Fordham had been employed by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) as a Correctional Officer Sergeant while at the same time acting as a gang leader for the Eight-Tray Crips.

Fordham used his position as a correctional officer to promote and enrich the Crips gang by means of contraband smuggling and violence inside prison facilities. In his capacity as a Crips leader, Fordham oversaw gang members both inside and outside of the facilities, using the prison's phone system and contraband cellphones. Fordham would use information from incarcerated gang members to authorize violence and assign gang members to carry out attacks against other individuals. A search warrant executed at Fordham's home revealed an assault rifle and handgun, synthetic marijuana, and multiple handwritten Crips manifestos detailing the history of the Eight-Tray Crips, as well as their rules, sanctions, and organizational structures.

The investigation was led by the Attorney General's Organized Crime Unit, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and DPSCS's Intelligence and Investigative Division.

Fordham's sentencing marks the conclusion of the lengthy investigation and prosecution of this conspiracy. Twenty-five additional individuals were convicted for their roles in the contraband conspiracy or the gang. Among those convicted include Phillipe Jordan, another correctional officer who pled guilty to smuggling items into Maryland correctional facilities.

"Antoine Fordham abused his position as a correctional officer to benefit himself and other violent members of the Crips gang," said Attorney General Frosh. "The joint effort to

investigate and prosecute this dangerous criminal helped dismantle his operation and bring about a significant sentence, behind bars this time.”

“The actions of this individual placed our officers and staff in danger and jeopardized our public safety mission,” said DPSCS Secretary Robert L. Green. “Our system will not tolerate such activities and will take all steps possible to protect the public, our facilities, and staff.”

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian, and Assistant Attorneys General Dennis G. Clark and Zachary Norfolk who prosecuted the case. The Attorney General also thanked DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the Baltimore District Office Don Hibbert. Attorney General Frosh also thanked State’s Attorney for Anne Arundel County Anne Colt Leitess for her office’s assistance with this prosecution.