

Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAKING BRIBES

Ocala, Florida – Acting United States Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow announces that Albert Larry Harris, Jr. (27, Lake County) today pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe as a public official. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison. The sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to the plea agreement, Harris worked as a correctional officer in a penitentiary at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex. Beginning in June 2017, he provided inmates at the facility with contraband (drugs and tobacco products) in exchange for large cash payments. Harris met with an undercover federal agent in Ocala on August 22, 2017, where he accepted a \$5,000 bribe payment and 200 Suboxone strips for delivery to a federal inmate. Following that exchange, Harris was arrested.

This case was investigated by the Department of Justice - Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.