



United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Oklahoma

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2018

Contact: Scott E. Williams
Phone: 405/553-8999

**GUARD AT FEDERAL TRANSFER CENTER CHARGED WITH
TAKING BRIBES TO SMUGGLE DRUGS**

OKLAHOMA CITY – **GABRIEL ORTIZ**, 36, of Oklahoma City, has been charged with taking bribes while serving as a Correctional Officer at the Federal Transfer Center.

According to an affidavit in support of a criminal complaint filed in federal court on September 5, 2018, the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ-OIG) learned on August 23, 2018, that Ortiz may have been smuggling marijuana and tobacco into the Federal Transfer Center, a Bureau of Prisons facility in Oklahoma City. The affidavit alleges that emails between inmates and their associates referenced sending Western Union wire transfers to an individual associated with Ortiz.

The affidavit further explains that undercover investigators with DOJ-OIG and the Fort Worth Police Department contacted Ortiz and confirmed his willingness to deliver contraband to a Federal Transfer Center inmate. On September 3, 2018, according to the criminal complaint, Ortiz delivered to that inmate 20 strips that later tested positive for amphetamines in exchange for \$1,000 via Walmart-to-Walmart transfer. According to the complaint, the next day, when Ortiz had not received payment for delivering contraband to the inmate, he texted an undercover officer that “if things don’t get squared away by this evening I’m gonna have to put the word out that he has a debt and it won’t be good for him.”

Federal law enforcement arrested Ortiz on September 4, 2018. He made his initial appearance on September 5 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Gary M. Purcell.

If Ortiz were to be convicted of bribery, he could be imprisoned for up to fifteen years, followed by up to three years of supervised release, and fined up to \$250,000.

These charges are the result of an investigation by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, the FBI, and the Fort Worth Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica L. Perry is prosecuting the case.

The public is reminded that this charge is merely an allegation and that Ortiz is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Reference is made to public filings for further information.

###