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CORRECTION OFFICER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON

Hunterdon County Acting Prosecutor Michael J. Williams announced the sentencing of Joel Mercado, age 38, of Lyndhurst, NJ.

According to Acting Prosecutor Williams, "On May 24, 2017, Mr. Mercado was arrested and charged with two counts of 2d degree official misconduct and two counts of 2d degree sexual assault. He was employed as a Senior Correction Officer for the New Jersey Department of Corrections at the time of the arrest. The joint investigation revealed that Mr. Mercado engaged in a sexual relationship with two inmates at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Union Township. Mr. Mercado has been employed by the Department of Corrections since 2007."

Acting Prosecutor Williams added, "On June 28, 2019, Mr. Mercado was sentenced by the Honorable Angela F. Borkowski, J.S.C., to three years in state prison. He also was ordered to forfeit his pension and his current and any future public employment in New Jersey. Mr. Mercado admitted to two counts of official misconduct for engaging in sexual activity with two inmates detained at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility."

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