



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

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Rick Binetti: 410 339-5007
Contact: Mark Vernarelli: 410 339-5065

Four Correctional Officers Suspended In Wake of Killer's Escape From MCI-H

TOWSON, MD (January 23, 2009)---Four correctional officers from Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown have been suspended for their negligence in the escape of convicted murderer Kandelario Garcia-Ramos from the facility on January 17.

The officers, who will not be named by this department, range from a probationary employee to a veteran with more than 25 years on the job. Three are men; one is a woman. All were cited for negligence in the performance of duty, and according to personnel rules, were suspended for periods ranging from five to fifteen days.

Two of the officers were on duty in the towers, between which Garcia-Ramos ran to make his escape after scaling two fences. The other two officers were responsible for counting the inmates during and after breakfast movement on the day of the escape.

The two officers who were responsible for counting the inmates each received five-day suspensions. One of the tower officers was suspended for ten days, the other for fifteen.

Due to the ongoing investigation, and the fact that these actions are personnel matters which include the right of officers to appeal, DPSCS will not comment more specifically or identify the officers.

The Internal Investigative Unit of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is working with law enforcement to determine the circumstances of the escape. And Commissioner of Correction J. Michael Stouffer is reviewing the prison administration's existing procedures and protocols to determine whether they contributed to the escape.

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