



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## Press Release

### **Not guilty plea entered, \$5,000 bail ordered In House of Corrections drug smuggling arrest**

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A Dorchester woman was arraigned this afternoon in the Dedham District Court on charges that she attempted to smuggle drugs to an inmate she was visiting at the Norfolk County House of Corrections in Dedham, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"We received information from Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti's investigative unit that they believed that drugs were being smuggled to a specific prisoner, himself serving a sentence for narcotics offenses," District Attorney Morrissey said. "State Police detectives from Norfolk DA Drug Unit joined the investigation and had excellent co-operation with the Sheriff's department."

The investigation resulted in the arrest at approximately 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, 2018, of Tamicha Luna, 22, of Bowdoin St., Dorchester. She entered a plea of not guilty to Distribution of a Class B Substance (a 10-year felony), Delivering Drugs to a Prisoner and Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Law. The Court continued the \$5,000 cash bail that had been set by a bail commissioner last night and ordered her to return to court on September 17, 2018 for pre-trial conference.

Visitors to the Norfolk County House of Correction are subject to search prior to visiting with inmates. Luna was confronted inside the facility by State Police and Sheriff's Office investigators as she arrived for a visit and allegedly found to be in possession of 14 Suboxone strips. They were allegedly concealed in a small blue package that she held in her fist. Investigators believe that a single Suboxone strip might be sold for \$400 among prisoners.

"Smuggling drugs to prisoners, as is alleged here, can create situations that are dangerous to other prisoners and the corrections officers who keep custody of them," Sheriff Bellotti said. "We remain vigilant so that the men in our custody, and those who guard them, remain safe."

District Attorney Morrissey praised Bellotti for the time, attention and resources he dedicates to both drug interdiction and helping those in custody deal with addiction. "The pull of addiction is real and strong, and it should surprise no one that inmates will attempt to obtain these substances," Morrissey said. "But the Sheriff has been a leader in dedicating resources to helping those in his custody begin to deal with their substance abuse disorder before they return to the street. That is better path forward to long-term relief, recovery and success."

*Pending charges represent accusations; all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt under the United States Constitution.*