



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 11, 2012

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ny>

FORMER TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK, CORRECTIONS LIEUTENANT INDICTED FOR ASSAULTING INMATE IN 2010

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announced today that a Binghamton, New York, grand jury returned an indictment on June 6, 2012, charging DAVID MONELL, a former Corrections Lieutenant at the Tioga County Jail, with Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 242. If found guilty, the defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

The indictment relates to an incident alleged to have occurred on June 21, 2010 at the Tioga County Jail, in Owego, New York. It alleges that the defendant, while employed as a Corrections Lieutenant, and while acting under color of law, unlawfully assaulted and caused bodily injury to inmate David Coffey. The indictment further alleges that these actions deprived Coffey of the right, protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to be free from the excessive use of force amounting to punishment.

The defendant appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew T. Baxter on June 11, 2012, in Syracuse, New York, and entered a plea of not guilty to the indictment. He was released on his own recognizance pending disposition of the matter. The charge contained in the indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The indictment resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tioga County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin P. Dooley of the Binghamton office, with assistance from the criminal section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Inquiries can be directed to AUSA Dooley at (607) 773-2887.

