

**State of New Mexico
Corrections Department**

Central Office Administration
4337 State Road 14, Santa Fe, NM 87508
PO Box 27116, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0116
www.corrections.state.nm.us
Phone: 505.827.8600 - Fax: 505.827.8220

Gregg Marcantel
Secretary 505.827.8884

Aurora B. Sánchez
Deputy Secretary of Administration
505.827.8631

Joe W. Booker, Jr.
Deputy Secretary of Operations
505.827.8667



Susana Martinez
Governor

Administrative Services 505.827.8601
Adult Prisons 505.827.8767
Corrections Industries 505.827.8906
General Counsel 505.827.8698
Information Technology 505.827.8713
Probation & Parole 505.827.8830
Office of Recidivism Reduction 505.827.8541
Training Academy 505.827.8900

"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."

Press Release

December 7, 2012

Re: Former Probation and Parole Officer Arrest

"When our standards are not rigorously upheld and inadequate or illegitimate performance is allowed to endure in our ranks, the effect is not only to rob the NMCD of some of its potential but also abandon and forget the very necessary professional standards required for our role in public safety. Accordingly, we are grateful for the partnership and work of the LCPD in assisting us in policing ourselves."

Gregg Marcantel
Secretary of Corrections

Former Probation and Parole Officer Natalie Mascarenas was arrested by Las Cruces Police and booked [Tuesday afternoon](#) December 4th. She is charged with Bribery of Public Officer (Demanding or receiving bribe by a public officer or employee). The arrest stems from allegations levied almost one (1) year ago relating to criminal wrongdoing on the part of Mascarenas while she was a Probation and Parole Officer in the Las Cruces Office.

Regarding a history in this matter, the Las Cruces Police Department originally handled the report of wrong-doing and subsequently turned over their findings to the New Mexico Corrections Department, thus prompting an internal Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit investigation regarding violation of policy associated with undue familiarity with an offender. Mascarenas resigned on January 9, 2012 following the launch of the aforementioned OPS investigation by the New Mexico Corrections Department.

Regarding the work history of Mascarenas with the New Mexico Corrections Department, while she began her formal employment with the Department on 6/13/09, she was associated with the agency as a college intern from 5/17/08 through 4/1/09.

For any questions regarding the investigation or a mug shot please contact Las Cruces Police.

Cristina Rodda
Office of Public Affairs Director
New Mexico Corrections Department

<http://corrections.state.nm.us/pio/pio.html>

4337 NM 14

Santa Fe, NM 87508

cristina.rodde@state.nm.us

Off: 505.827.8660

Cell: 505.249.8023

Fax: 505.827.8533

Courage Responsibility Ethics Dedication - CREDibly serving the public safety of New Mexico
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Cristina Rodda

Public Affairs Director

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