

# IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Four people charged under Operation Zero Tolerance

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JACKSON –Four people have been arrested on prison grounds in the last several days under a contraband crackdown that began three months ago.

Three of those charged were employees caught with tobacco at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and the fourth was a service person found with alcohol when his vehicle was searched at the prison's entrance.

“These arrests are a reminder that Operation Zero Tolerance applies to everyone and all facilities,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “Any arrest of an employee is unfortunate for our workforce. Our hardworking, honest employees who put their lives on the line every day don't deserve to have their image tarnished by dishonest people wearing the same uniform.”

Teresa Davis, a correctional officer since 2015, and trainee Chris Roberts, hired in August 2016, have been terminated. Trainee Kimberly Monroe, on the job since December, is facing termination.

Davis, 52, was arrested after 155 grams of tobacco was found hidden in two sandwiches inside Tupperware containers she had. Tobacco was found in a bag Roberts, 33, was carrying. He was arrested around the same time as Davis on May 22.

Monroe, 29, was arrested three days later. She was found with 7.5 ounces of tobacco, according to investigators.

All three former employees are charged with possession of prohibited items by persons other than offenders (Mississippi state law 47-5-192). A conviction is a

misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum one year in prison or a maximum \$1,000 fine, or both.

Malcolm McLain, who had come to do work at the prison on May 23, is charged under Mississippi state law 47-5-193, which prohibits alcoholic beverages at a correctional facility. Conviction is a felony that carries three to 15 years in prison, a \$25,000 fine, or both.

All four were taken to the Rankin County jail. Investigations are ongoing regarding their arrests.

“I am disappointed to have to talk about these arrests,” Hall said. “However, Operation Zero Tolerance is in full force for the safety of staff and inmates.”