



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Acting Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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NY STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND NASSAU COUNTY DA ANNOUNCE ARREST OF CHECK FORGER Former NYPA Contractor Charged with Possessing More Than \$200K in Forged Checks

Acting New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice today announced the arrest of Nicholas Analitis, a former landscape contractor for the New York Power Authority (NYPA), for allegedly forging more than \$200,000 in checks. Three of the counterfeit checks, totaling more than \$122,000, were created to appear as if they had been legitimately issued by NYPA.

Analitis, age 35, of Brentwood, is charged with two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a D Felony, and seven counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a D Felony. If convicted, Analitis faces up to 7 years in prison.

“Stealing funds from the State and taxpayers will not be tolerated. Any individual engaging in such activity will be vigorously pursued,” said Inspector General Scott. “My office conducted a swift and thorough investigation, which culminated in this arrest. I want to thank District Attorney Rice and her office for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.”

The Inspector General launched the investigation after being notified by NYPA that its check verification system had identified an attempt to steal funds from the Authority. Specifically, it was discovered that an individual – subsequently identified as Analitis – had allegedly presented the forged NYPA checks at various financial institutions seeking payment. Analitis is also alleged to have forged more than \$84,000 in checks from private companies he worked with and used another individual’s credit card to purchase more than \$4,900 worth of jewelry.

District Attorney Rice said: “When con artists try to scam the taxpayers, they should know that they are going to get caught and pay a heavy price. This defendant stole from the government, private companies, and individuals with forged checks and unauthorized credit purchases, and we will zealously prosecute him for these crimes. I want to thank the Inspector General and her staff for their comprehensive investigation and outstanding work.”

Analitis, who is currently incarcerated and awaiting sentencing in Nassau County on a separate criminal matter, operated a landscaping business known as Prestige Builder & Management LLC. In 2010, NYPA contracted with Prestige to perform more than \$140,000 in sidewalk repair and landscaping services at one of its facilities. NYPA terminated the contract in 2011 for poor performance, but investigators believe that Analitis used one of the checks NYPA had paid him as a template for creating the forged checks.

Analitis was arraigned before the Hon. Douglas J. Lerosé in Nassau District Court and remanded. His next court date is December 21, 2012.

Inspector General Scott thanked District Attorney Rice and the Nassau County Police Department. The NCPD's Crimes Against Property Squad assisted both the Inspector General and District Attorney with this case.

The defendant is innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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