



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Acting Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 7, 2013**

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NY STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND NASSAU COUNTY DA ANNOUNCE GUILTY PLEA OF CHECK FORGER Former NYPA Contractor Pleads Guilty to 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 guilty plea of Nicholas Analitis, a former landscape contractor for the New York Power Authority (NYPA), for forging more than \$200,000 in checks. Three of the checks, totaling more than \$122,000, were created to appear as if they were issued by NYPA.

Analitis, age 35, of Brentwood, pled guilty to five felony counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree before the Honorable William O'Brien. It is anticipated Analitis will be sentenced to a term of 2-4 years incarceration for each count, to be served concurrently.

"Today's conviction is the direct result of New York State government working as it should, and in full cooperation with law enforcement authorities," said Inspector General Scott. "NYPA promptly notified my office, as these crimes were being committed, resulting in an immediate Inspector General investigation and partnership with the Nassau County District Attorney. The crimes were uncovered, the evidence obtained, and justice dispensed in an appropriate and timely fashion."

District Attorney Rice said: "This defendant is nothing more than a scam artist who would rather steal somebody else's money than earn his own, and that he chose to victimize the taxpayers is even more galling. Today's guilty plea is the result of my office's commitment to working with our fellow state and law enforcement agencies to root out those who violate the public trust for their own criminal benefit. I thank Acting Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and her staff for their outstanding work on this investigation."

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. The Inspector General's office discovered that Analitis had presented the forged NYPA checks at various financial institutions seeking payment. Analitis also 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.

Analitis owned landscaping business 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.

Inspector General Scott thanked District Attorney Rice, the Nassau County Police Department, and the Nassau County Crimes Against Property Squad for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this case. Inspector General Scott also thanked the New York Power Authority for their cooperation and assistance in this matter.

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