



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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NEW YORK STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES ARREST OF STATE EMPLOYEE FOR STEALING MORE THAN A THOUSAND DOLLARS IN GASOLINE *Allegedly used several credit cards to conceal theft*

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and St. Lawrence County District Attorney Mary E. Rain announced the arrest of a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintenance employee on charges he misused his state employee status to steal more than a thousand dollars in gasoline. The employee concealed his actions by utilizing several credit cards in numerous locations.

“New York State employees and officials are entrusted by the public to perform their job duties ethically, responsibly and of course within the law,” said Inspector General Scott. “Those who abuse the public’s trust will be investigated and prosecuted for their misconduct. This investigation revealed alleged fraud and theft. Particularly egregious was the utilization of several credit cards to avoid detection of criminal conduct.”

Cale Nolan, 33, of Star Lake, NY, a 12 year maintenance employee with DEC is charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree (Class E Felony), 20 counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree (Class E Felony) and one count of Official Misconduct (Class A Misdemeanor).

It is alleged that on at least 20 different occasions between April 2013 and January 2014 Nolan used numerous DEC fuel credit cards taken from DEC vehicles to purchase gasoline for his own personal use at various commercial gas stations in different municipalities throughout St. Lawrence County. The use of a series of credit cards at different locations enabled him to conceal the theft.

District Attorney Rain said: “The Office of the Inspector General has done a fantastic and thorough investigation into the theft of property paid for by state taxpayers. It is my hope that Mr. Nolan’s arrest and prosecution will have a chilling effect on any governmental official entrusted to protect taxpayer’s interests. I will continue to aggressively prosecute those individuals who abuse their position for personal gain.”

When employees fuel state vehicles at commercial gasoline pumps, they are required to enter the vehicle’s odometer reading and a personal identification number (PIN) when activating the pump. It is alleged on each occurrence Nolan entered a false vehicle odometer reading and false PIN at the fuel pump in an effort to conceal the thefts from DEC. Nolan had no authorization to make any of the alleged purchases, because the credit cards are to be used only for state owned vehicles or equipment.

Nolan appeared before the Hon. Christopher Curley of Canton Justice Court and is scheduled to reappear in court April 23, 2014.

Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police and St. Lawrence County District Attorney Rain for their assistance in the investigation. The defendant is deemed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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