



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

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## **FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH FELONY THEFT – USED STATE ISSUED CREDIT CARD TO BUY GAS FOR PERSONAL USE MORE THAN 100 TIMES**

BATH - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a former New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) employee on charges that he used a State-issued credit card to buy gasoline for personal use more than 100 times in less than a year.

John T. Deeks, 36, of Canisteo, was arrested this morning and charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree (Class D Felony) and one count of Official Misconduct (Class A Misdemeanor). The former DOT Engineer Technician is accused of using his State-issued credit card more than 100 times to buy more than \$6,000 worth of gasoline for his own personal use, often while he was out on sick leave and while suspended on an unrelated employment matter.

Inspector General Leahy Scott said, “These alleged acts reflect a long-term, brazen disregard for the public’s trust, and my office will continue to vigorously pursue any State worker showing such clear disdain for their ethical obligations as a public servant.”

Deeks, in an unrelated matter, was suspended without pay from March 25, 2014, through June 2, 2014. After returning to work, Deeks only reported to work for a few days. He called in sick for the majority of time until July 11, 2014, when he was terminated. Deeks was employed by the DOT since 2006.

The investigation found that Deeks charged \$1,760 to his state credit card at various gas stations while he was out on suspension. In addition, there were more than \$2,250 in charges made at times when he had called in sick or was off duty. Deeks also failed to properly document an additional \$2,200 worth of purchases that he made while on duty as he was required to do.

His State-issued credit card was meant for use only in relation to his work as a DOT employee.

Steuben County District Attorney Brooks Baker said, “Cases of abuse of public trust are some of the most troubling, this is yet another local example. We appreciate the assistance of the Inspector General’s Office in identifying and investigating these crimes. Hopefully this arrest will serve as notice to anyone else who might engage in this type of behavior – don’t do it, you will be found and you will be prosecuted.”

Deeks appeared before the Hon. James Burns in the Town of Bath Justice Court and is due back in court Monday, July 6.

Inspector General Scott thanks the New York State Police for their assistance with this arrest, and Steuben County District Attorney Brooks Baker and his office for the prosecution of this matter.

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

[Click here for a downloadable audio file on Inspector General Leahy Scott's remarks.](#)

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