



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER THOUSAND ISLANDS STATE PARKS EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO PAY BACK NEARLY \$61,000 HE STOLE IN DOCK AND BOAT RENTAL FEES

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today that a former State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“OPRHP”) employee was sentenced to full restitution and five years of probation for his felony conviction of stealing nearly \$61,000 in boat dockage and rental fees from the Wellesley Island State Park in the Thousand Islands while he was in charge of the state park marina.

David Gosier, 51, of Rt. 181, Lafargeville, a former “Park Worker 3” for OPRHP, pleaded guilty in June to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, both felonies, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor. At his sentencing today before Jefferson County Court Judge Kim H. Martusewicz, Gosier was ordered to pay the State \$60,792.93 restitution and sentenced to five years of probation.

“This former State worker used his public position to establish a long-running scheme enriching himself at the expense of New York’s taxpayers,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “Having violated the public’s trust, he must now pay back his stolen gains in full. I will continue dedicating the resources of my position to pursue anyone who defrauds and steals from the State.”

“The Defendant abused the public trust to enrich himself and I am pleased the sentence provides for restitution of his theft,” said District Attorney Mills. “I thank Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott for her investigation and will continue to work with law enforcement partners such as the Inspector General to make sure those who steal from taxpayers are held accountable to the full extent of the law.”

Inspector General Leahy Scott’s investigation found that Gosier worked for OPRHP since 1983 and became a full-time employee in 2006 responsible for dock fees and boat rentals at the Wellesley State Park Marina. The marina has 46 seasonal boat slips available for rent on a seasonal basis and several slips available for transient rental, as well as small power boats available for rent on a daily or weekly basis.

Slips would generally rent for between \$19 and \$28 for an overnight stay with seasonal rentals based on the size of boat at a minimum of \$800. Motor boats would rent for between \$50 and \$75 per day, depending on their size.

The investigation found Gosier routinely accepted payment for the dock and boat rentals by cash or personal checks made out directly to him. Transactions were recorded on triplicate forms and on numerous occasions Gosier falsely reduced the length of the rental periods on the copies sent to park offices so that they would indicate less revenue than he actually collected. In total, the investigation determined Gosier stole nearly \$62,000 in fees that should have gone to the State between May 2012 and August 2015.

Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott thanked OPRHP for their assistance with the investigation and the State Park Police for their assistance with the investigation and arrest. She also thanked Jefferson County District Attorney Kristyna S. Mills and her office for prosecuting this matter.

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