



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 27, 2016
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

STATEN ISLAND DMV EMPLOYEE ILLEGALLY ACCESSED STATE COMPUTER TO CONTACT CUSTOMER AND ASK FOR A DATE

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today the arrest of an employee with the State Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") who improperly accessed State computers to obtain personal information about a DMV customer he saw and wanted to ask out on a date.

Peter Grosseto, 29, of Willow Road, Staten Island, was charged with Computer Trespass, a felony, and Unauthorized Use of a Computer and Official Misconduct, misdemeanors.

An investigation conducted by the DMV's Division of Field Investigation found that Grosseto, a customer service representative in DMV offices on Staten Island, improperly accessed DMV computers earlier this month to obtain personal information of customer who was served by another representative. Grosseto saw the customer at the DMV offices and obtained her name and phone number without her knowledge. He then used DMV computers three times to improperly access her personal information. The investigation found that Grosseto later called the woman at home, at first feigning to be a DMV quality assurance representative, but ultimately admitting his real reason for calling was to ask her for a date.

"This defendant set aside any semblance of professionalism and illegally accessed State resources to satisfy his own interests and harass a customer with unwelcome advances," said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. "I will not tolerate any government employee's violation of the public trust or violation of any citizen's privacy and dignity."

"There is no responsibility we take more seriously at DMV than safeguarding the personal information of our customers," said **DMV Executive Deputy Commissioner Terri Egan**. "When personal information is compromised, we take swift action – especially when a DMV employee is involved. In addition to his arrest, DMV has also suspended Mr. Grosseto from work without pay to ensure he can no longer abuse his position."

"This defendant is a government employee who is alleged to have abused his position in order to illegally access an individual's private information," said **Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. "Mr. Grosseto is charged with violating the public trust for his own selfish gains, and my office will work to ensure that he is held accountable for his crimes and that the public safety is protected. I would like to thank the Offices of Inspector General Leahy Scott and the Department of Motor Vehicles for their diligence in bringing about this case."

Grosseto was arraigned in Richmond County Criminal Court pending future court action and he was suspended without pay from the DMV.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the DMV for their work on the investigation and arrest, and Richmond County District Attorney McMahon and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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

###