



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

**Investigation of Alleged Theft and Other Misconduct by Employees
of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

September 20, 2006

The Office of the State Inspector General investigated a complaint, received from an anonymous source, that Jeffrey Frey and James Moore, both employed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as General Mechanics at Sampson State Park in Seneca County, were involved in improper and possibly criminal activities relating to their State employment.

An investigation by this Office and OPRHP Park Police led to a search of Frey's residence in Hartsville, Tompkins County. During the search, Frey was found to be in possession of a number of items of OPRHP property that had been taken from Sampson State Park, including a large picnic table, two grills, two wood benches, and a chain with a locking device. When interviewed during the investigation, Frey admitted he was responsible for the theft of these items from the park.

The investigation also determined that New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) vehicle inspection stickers had been misused at Sampson State Park. (OPRHP is issued inspection stickers by DMV for use on State vehicles, and OPRHP General Mechanics are certified by DMV as vehicle inspectors.) In one instance, we found that an inspection sticker Moore recorded as having been issued to an OPRHP vehicle had actually been affixed to his girlfriend's vehicle. When interviewed, Moore admitted issuing inspection stickers to non-State vehicles, engaging in time and attendance abuse, and working on his own vehicles on State time with OPRHP tools and materials.

Frey was arrested on charges of Petit Larceny and Official Misconduct. Moore was arrested on charges of Falsifying Business Records and Official Misconduct. Frey subsequently pleaded guilty to Official Misconduct and was ordered to pay a \$350 fine. Moore also pleaded guilty to Official Misconduct and was fined \$500. Both Frey and Moore resigned their OPRHP positions.

In the course of the investigation, we also identified several issues relating to OPRHP property control. We found that Sampson State Park followed an unofficial policy of allowing employees to borrow State equipment for personal use, and that no

records of the borrowing were maintained. Additionally, we found that State Park equipment such as tables, benches, and grills lacked inventory tags or other markings identifying them as OPRHP property, and that OPRHP inventory records for these items were not current. We also found that OPRHP lacked a uniform policy for its regions with respect to accountability for DMV vehicle inspection stickers. This Office recommended to OPRHP that these matters be addressed.

By letter dated July 13, 2006, OPRHP advised us that it had taken steps to improve property control and vehicle inspection sticker accountability as recommended.