



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**Final Report**  
**May 6, 2010**

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The New York State Inspector General found that William Goodine, a laborer employed by the New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG), stole and misused a state-owned Exxon/Mobil gasoline credit card to purchase fuel for his personal pickup truck on three occasions for a total of \$120 in improper charges.

Goodine was arrested by the Inspector General and the Menands Police Department. He subsequently pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, and he was ordered to pay restitution and perform 100 hours of community service. Goodine also resigned from his position with OMIG.

## ALLEGATION

On August 4, 2009, the Inspector General received an allegation that Goodine had taken a state Exxon/Mobil credit card and used it to purchase fuel for his personal vehicle.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

Goodine had been employed as a laborer with OMIG since 2008 assigned to OMIG's Menands office, where his duties primarily included moving furniture and files and distributing paper to various locations within the building.

OMIG personnel may purchase fuel or oil for OMIG vehicles with state-owned Exxon/Mobil credit cards; these cards may not be used for any personal purchases. OMIG's Fleet Operations maintains a binder for each OMIG vehicle that contains the keys, gas and service cards. OMIG requires that drivers maintain a mileage log, and they must collect and file gas purchase receipts with OMIG's Fleet Operations, which routinely reconciles mileage reports and gas receipts.

On July 10, 2009, OMIG Operations Management was unable to locate an Exxon/Mobil gas credit card assigned to an OMIG vehicle, and canceled that card on July

16, 2009. On July 29, 2009, the Exxon/Mobil statement of charges was received and during reconciliation, three charges for gas purchases were discovered for which there were no supporting receipts. The credit card statement indicated charges of \$36.68, \$36.88, and \$47.11 made on June 24, 2009 through July 8, 2009, at a Mobil gas station in Menands.

The Inspector General interviewed Nancy Conroy, OMIG Director of Operations, who explained that she held a staff meeting shortly after the discovery of the suspicious credit card transactions during which she raised her concerns and requested information. Conroy also advised that she filed a police report with the Menands Police Department. According to Conroy, a few days later Goodine informed her that he had taken the gas card and purchased gas on three occasions for his personal vehicle.

On September 6, 2009, the Inspector General conducted a voluntary interview of Goodine under oath. Goodine admitted to stealing the state-owned Exxon/Mobil credit card and using it to make the aforementioned three purchases of fuel for his personal vehicle, specifically confessing that he had “taken the fuel card for the use of my own vehicle . . . because I thought no one would notice.”

The Inspector General determined that Goodine surreptitiously took the credit card from an area of the OMIG’s Menands office that is accessible to all office employees. Goodine believed that the card in question would not be quickly noticed as missing because it was assigned to a vehicle that was undergoing extensive repairs and therefore would not be used for some time.

The Inspector General, in coordination with Menands Police, arrested Goodine and charged him with grand larceny in the fourth degree and official misconduct.<sup>1</sup> Goodine later resigned from State service, effective September 9, 2009. On November 16, 2009, Goodine pleaded guilty in Menands Village Court to disorderly conduct, and was ordered to pay \$120.67 in restitution and perform 100 hours of community service.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Inspector General established that William Goodine, a laborer with OMIG, stole and misused a state-owned Exxon/Mobil gas credit card to make three purchases of gas, totaling \$120.67, for his personal vehicle. Goodine was arrested and ultimately convicted of disorderly conduct. He was ordered to pay restitution and perform 100 hours of community service. Goodine also resigned from employment with OMIG.

The Inspector General recommended that OMIG review its policy and procedure for the handling of OMIG Exxon/Mobil credit cards, specifically if they should be kept in a more secure location when not in use. In response, OMIG advised that gasoline credit cards and vehicles keys are secured separately and are maintained in a locked room.

---

<sup>1</sup> New York State Penal Law §§ 155.30 and 195.00.