



# NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 11, 2018  
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## **FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH USING GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD FOR PERSONAL CELL PHONE BILL AND OTHER CHARGES**

ROCHESTER – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest and arraignment of a former New York State employee on the felony theft charge accusing her of using a government-issued credit card for personal cell phone charges, college tuition and personal car insurance.

Lyntessa Lewis, also known as Lyntessa Hall, 46, of Rochester, was arraigned on the charge of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Felony.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between June 27, 2017 and August 31, 2017, Lewis, while employed as a Developmental Assistant II for the State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) in Brighton, used her state issued credit card for \$1,188.38 in unauthorized personal charges, including payments to her personal cell phone provider, for college tuition and for her personal car insurance. Certain State employees receive government-issued credit cards to be used solely for work-related purchases and expenses.

“This defendant’s alleged abuse of state resources for her own personal gain was a brazen betrayal of the public trust,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue using all resources available to me to hold public employees to the highest level of integrity and will pursue anyone who corrupts their position.”

Lewis, who resigned from State service during the pendency of the Inspector General’s investigation, was arraigned Wednesday on the charge in the Brighton Town Court and was released on her own recognizance pending her reappearance in court on October 29.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Finger Lakes DDSO for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and her office for assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting this matter.

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

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