



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO USING GOVERNMENT ISSUED CREDIT CARD FOR PERSONAL CELL PHONE BILL AND OTHER CHARGES

BUFFALO – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of a former New York State employee who used her 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, pleaded guilty today to the crime of Petit Larceny and paid the full \$1,188.38 in restitution.

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 abuse of state resources for her own personal gain was a blatant betrayal of the public trust,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I remain committed to using my position and the resources available to me to pursue anyone who corrupts their position of public employment.”

Lewis, who separated from State service earlier this year, pleaded guilty in Brighton Town Court and was simultaneously sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge with 60 days of community service.

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 their assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting this matter.

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