



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General

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FORMER RENSSELAER COUNTY SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR ADMITS MISCONDUCT FOR HELPING TROY HOUSING OFFICIAL EVADE ARREST

TROY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel Abelow today announced the guilty plea of a former Rensselaer County Department of Social Services Supervising Welfare Investigator who used his position to try to cover up wrongdoing by a former Troy housing official.

Emanuel (Manny) Ned, 51, of Wynantskill Way, Troy, pleaded guilty today in Troy City Court to Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

A joint investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott and District Attorney Abelow determined that Ned, in early 2015, received allegations that Troy Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Member Paul Moses, 58, was engaging in welfare fraud by concealing employment income. The investigation found that Ned filed investigative records fabricating witness interviews that never took place in order to make it appear that the allegations were meritless and to close the case.

In a separate investigation of Moses, Inspector General Leahy Scott determined Moses had in fact failed to disclose income and had received unwarranted rental subsidies and other benefits that he was ineligible to collect. That investigation resulted in charges against Moses for felony welfare fraud in June 2015. The case against him remains pending.

“As a government employee Mr. Ned not only violated the public trust, he misled his own agency to cover up another person’s criminal activity,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will aggressively pursue any public official who abuses their official position to facilitate wrongdoing.”

“This defendant was put into a position of trust, to ensure the integrity of the County’s public assistance benefits. He violated this trust, much to the detriment of the Department of Social Services and the residents of Rensselaer County,” said **District Attorney Abelow**. “While his resignation was a first step in the rebuilding of the Special Investigations Unit, his actions went beyond simply not doing his job. My office will continue to hold those who violate the public trust accountable for their actions. I commend Inspector General Leahy Scott and her staff for their hard work on this case, as well as the efforts of the Department of Social Service’s Special Investigations Unit, which continues to protect the interests of the citizens of Rensselaer County.”

Inspector General Leahy Scott’s investigation found Moses, who was a tenant representative on the Troy Housing Authority, collected nearly \$50,000 in public assistance and housing subsidies he was not entitled to from 2009 through 2015. On his applications for public benefits he indicated receiving no employment income throughout the period when he was actually employed as a bartender. Moses was indicted by a grand jury on two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third-Degree, six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing

in the First-Degree, six counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First-Degree and one count of Welfare Fraud in the Third-Degree, all felonies. His case remains pending in Rensselaer County Court.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel Ablove for prosecuting this matter, and thanked Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen Jimino for the county's cooperation and assistance with this case.

The Office of the Welfare Inspector General is charged with oversight of local departments of social services.

Defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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The New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.state.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223.