



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 12, 2016
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

FORMER TROY HOUSING OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO JAIL, PROBATION AND RESTITUTION FOR THEFT OF NEARLY \$40,000 IN FOOD STAMPS AND HOUSING SUBSIDIES

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel E. Abelow announced today that a former Troy Housing Authority official who fraudulently collected nearly \$40,000 in public assistance and housing subsidies was sentenced to jail, probation and full restitution for his crimes.

Paul Moses, 58, a former member of the Troy Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners, was sentenced in Rensselaer County Court today to 90 days in jail, five years of probation and full restitution for his theft of food stamp benefits and rental subsidies to which he was not entitled. He previously pleaded guilty to Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree and two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, felonies.

“From food stamps to housing subsidies he never should have received, this former tenant representative at the Troy Housing Authority cheated the system at the expense of those who are truly in need,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “Through his criminal actions, he enriched himself and enhanced his lifestyle with public assistance to which he was not entitled. I will continue to work diligently with my law enforcement partners and use all the resources at my disposal to pursue anyone who corrupts the public benefits system.”

“My office will continue to work with law enforcement partners such as Inspector General Leahy Scott to make sure those who steal from taxpayers are held accountable,” said **District Attorney Abelow**. “If you defraud the public benefits system you will be caught and you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Moses received \$8,098 in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits that he was not entitled to between 2009 and 2015. He also received \$30,996 in unwarranted rental subsidies from the Troy Housing Authority from 2008 through 2015. In his applications for the SNAP benefits (also known as food stamps) and rental subsidies, Moses indicated he had no employment income. The investigation determined Moses in fact had been working as a bartender at a tavern in Troy for the prior nine years.

Moses was a tenant representative elected to the Troy Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners since 2009. Tenants in Authority apartments may receive rental subsidies based on their income. Moses’s crimes enabled him to pay significantly less rent than he was entitled to during the past nine years.

After his arrest last year, Moses was evicted from his Housing Authority apartment and removed from the Authority’s board.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Troy Housing Authority and Rensselaer County Sheriff’s

Department for their assistance in the investigation and arrest, and Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel Abelove and his office for prosecuting this matter.

###

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.