



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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INSPECTOR GENERAL: NYPA WORKER ARRESTED ON CHARGES HE STOLE GAS WITH STATE CREDIT CARD

Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore announced the arrest of a former New York Power Authority (NYPA) employee on charges he used NYPA owned gasoline credit cards to purchase gas for his personal vehicle.

Raymond Encarnacion, 29, of the Bronx is charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony. He is alleged to have taken \$2,918 in gasoline from the state.

“This arrest demonstrates that we will hold state employees accountable for acts contrary to their public service and responsibilities,” said Inspector General Scott. “I will continue to work with our state agencies and prosecutors and combat such fraud and abuse.”

District Attorney Janet DiFiore said: “This defendant, as alleged in the complaint, showed a brazen disregard not only for his employer, but also for all New York taxpayers. His continuing use of the gas cards, as if he was legitimately entitled to the fuel, only adds to the larceny.”

Inspector General Scott’s investigation uncovered evidence indicating that Encarnacion improperly removed gasoline credit cards from NYPA owned vehicles and used them to pay for gas for his personal vehicle. The investigation further determined that Encarnacion attempted to conceal his activity by creating documentation to make it appear as though the NYPA vehicle from which he removed the credit card had been fueled. Encarnacion is alleged to have committed these acts between August 2012 and November 2013.

The investigation culminating in today’s arrest is the latest in a series of investigations and reviews conducted by the Inspector General which has resulted in the State implementing a revised, comprehensive vehicle use policy. The policy strictly prohibits this conduct and clearly outlines vehicle use restrictions to ensure that vehicle use meets legitimate state needs and is subject to appropriate review and approval.

Encarnacion, a former Services Assistant for NYPA, had earned \$35,000 a year before he was terminated in December 2013 as a result of this investigation. He had been employed by NYPA since 2009.

Encarnacion appeared before the Hon. Eric Press of White Plains City Court. He is scheduled to return to court on February 26, 2014 for further proceedings.

Inspector General Scott thanked Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore and the New York Power Authority for their assistance in this investigation.

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

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