



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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I INSPECTOR GENERAL: OGS WORKER ARRESTED ON CHARGES HE STOLE STATE OWNED GAS FOR PERSONAL USE

Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a New York Office of General Services (OGS) maintenance employee on charges he stole gasoline from state-owned gas pumps for his personal use.

Bruce Chapple, 55, of Wynantskill is charged with four counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Class E felonies, four counts of Petit Larceny, Class A misdemeanors, and one count of Official Misconduct, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, Chapple faces up to four years in prison on each felony count.

“The theft of state resources is a theft from all taxpayers,” said Inspector General Scott. “The defendant’s misconduct undermines the public’s trust that government is working in an honest and effective manner. My office remains committed to uncovering fraud and abuse in New York State.”

Inspector General Scott’s investigation obtained evidence of the theft, including video surveillance footage of Chapple filling portable gasoline cans at state-owned fuel pumps on the W. Averill Harriman State Office Complex on at least four occasions after using New York State gas credit cards to activate the pumps. Chapple was also observed placing the gas cans in his personal vehicle.

Chapple, a Building Services Assistant for OGS, earns \$32,000 a year. He has been employed by New York State since 2000.

Chapple, who was arrested by the New York State Police, appeared before the Hon. Thomas K. Keefe of Albany City Court. He is scheduled to return to court on July 29 for further proceedings.

Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police and OGS for their assistance.

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

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