



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

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## **NEW YORK STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCE GUILTY PLEA AND SENTENCING OF RIVERBANK STATE PARK EMPLOYEE FOR STEALING MORE THAN \$50,000 IN STATE FUNDS**

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announced the guilty plea and sentencing of a Riverbank State Park cashier who stole more than \$50,000 in cash from a Riverbank State Park register over a one year period. George Kelly III, 44, of Manhattan previously pled guilty on October 15, 2013 and was sentenced for Grand Larceny and on a separate charge of jumping bail – after he was initially charged for the theft earlier this year.

The prosecution and conviction of Kelly was the result of a joint investigation by the Inspector General and the New York State Park Police regarding internal financial controls at the park. That investigation is ongoing.

“Our state parks are a vital source of recreation and respite for all New Yorkers,” said Inspector General Scott. “Theft from such a precious public resource is egregious and will not be tolerated. I thank District Attorney Vance for his similar commitment to holding accountable those who attempt to rob the public of funds that go toward the use and preservation of this valuable public resource.”

Kelly pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and was sentenced to 1-3 years in prison. He also pled guilty to Bail Jumping in the Second Degree, and was sentenced to an additional year in prison.

Earlier this year, Kelly confessed to Park Police that he stole \$12,000-\$15,000 throughout most of 2012. However, a joint examination of register receipts by the Inspector General and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation revealed that Kelly actually stole several times that amount, and he later pled guilty to stealing approximately \$53,000. Kelly absconded while free on bail in May 2013 after he was arraigned on the charges. He was later apprehended and remanded.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., said: “During difficult economic times, this defendant stole more than \$50,000 from New Yorkers – money that could have been used to help keep our parks clean and safe. I thank our partners at the Inspector General’s Office for their work on this investigation.”

Kelly appeared before the Hon. Jill Konviser of New York State Supreme Court.

Riverbank Park, which first opened in 1993, is a popular “rooftop” park on the upper west side of Manhattan. It attracts 2.5 million visitors a year and generates more than a million dollars in annual revenue.

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