



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER TOP EXECUTIVE AT AGENCY OVERSEEING LAKE PLACID OLYMPIC FACILITIES FACING LARCENY AND MISCONDUCT CHARGES FOR THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN IMPROPER ALCOHOL AND MEAL PURCHASES CHARGED TO TAXPAYERS

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Essex County District Attorney Kristy Sprague today announced the arrest of a former top executive of the State agency in charge of New York’s winter Olympic facilities on larceny and misconduct charges for allegedly using his State-issued credit cards for thousands of dollars in improper personal purchases, the majority of which were alcoholic beverages.

Padraig Power, 34, of Lake Placid, the former Director of Finance and Internal Controls Officer for the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), was arrested and charged today with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a felony, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found Power routinely and repeatedly used State issued credit cards from March 2013 through March 2017 for more than \$6,300 in personal purchases, the majority of which were comprised of alcoholic beverages purchased at restaurants and bars. State policy prohibits the use of government issued credit cards for personal benefit, and specifically exempts the purchase of alcoholic beverages as a reimbursable expense. ORDA also has a policy prohibiting employees from consuming alcoholic beverages during the performance of their official duties.

“This former top ORDA official’s wanton disregard of the public trust and even the most basic guidelines were nothing short of unabashed hubris,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “For years, this defendant allegedly used taxpayer funds to subsidize exorbitant bar tabs and other improper personal expenses, undermining his own role as an internal control officer, and undermining what should have been a commitment to integrity and public service. I will continue using all the resources at my disposal and work closely with my law enforcement partners to pursue anyone who violates the public trust.”

“This ORDA official’s alleged conduct seemed to derive from a mindset where everybody else’s rules simply did not apply to him,” said **District Attorney Sprague**. “ORDA is an important State agency meant to oversee Olympic and winter sporting assets that are critical to Essex County, and I thank Inspector General Leahy Scott for her work in holding this former top executive accountable and bringing this case to fruition.”

Power was arraigned in the Village of Lake Placid Court and released pending his reappearance on August 16.

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

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Essex County District Attorney Kristy Sprague and her office for prosecuting this matter.

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