



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Acting Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 28, 2012

STATE DOT EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR THEFT Binghamton Worker Faces Up to Year in Jail

Acting State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest of a New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) employee on charges he stole scrap metal from a DOT facility, sold it for cash and retained the proceeds for his personal use.

“State employees are prohibited from taking public property, plain and simple,” said Inspector General Scott. “Taxpayers have every right to expect the items and services they pay for are used by the public and not sold by state employees for private gain.”

Rocco Ranucci, 55, of Vestal, N.Y., was arrested Thursday by Inspector General investigators and the New York State Police. He was charged with three counts of Petit Larceny and one count of Official Misconduct. He faces up to one year in jail.

The Inspector General’s investigation revealed that from May through July 2012, Ranucci allegedly removed scrap metal from a DOT scrap pile and sold it to a local scrap yard for a profit. DOT policy requires that scrap metal be accumulated and sold through protocols established by the Office of General Services with the profits being returned to the state general fund.

Ranucci has worked as a full time highway maintenance worker with DOT in Binghamton since November 2008, currently earning an annual salary of \$32,974. As a Highway Maintenance Worker, Ranucci was responsible for maintenance, debris removal and snowplowing state roadways.

Ranucci admitted to investigators that he sold the materials for personal gain, taking advantage of the rising price of valuable metals. He was arraigned in the Town of Kirkwood justice court by the Hon. Benjamin Weingartner.

Acting Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance in the case and the Broome County District Attorney’s Office for the prosecution of this matter.

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

###

Additional releases available at www.ig.ny.gov
For more information contact (518) 474-1010