



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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TEMPORARY STATE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY AND FACES YEAR IN JAIL FOR FALSIFYING TIME SHEETS AND FORGING SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE TO STEAL MORE THAN \$6,000 PAY FOR TIME HE DID NOT WORK

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea and expected jail sentencing of a temporary State employee who falsified time and attendance forms and forged a supervisor's signature in order to get paid for more than 400 hours when he did not work.

Joseph Sambou, 30, of Warren Street Brooklyn, pleaded guilty to petit larceny, a misdemeanor. As part of his plea agreement, Sambou is expected to serve a sentence of a year in jail.

Inspector General Leahy Scott's investigation found that Sambou falsified time sheets and forged his supervisor's signature numerous times between late 2014 and early 2015, claiming to have worked 422.5 hours that he in fact did not. Those false time sheets enabled Sambou to receive more than \$6,000 for hours in which he did not work while assigned as a temporary employee with the State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities' offices on Beaver Street in Manhattan.

"Through brazen fraud this defendant stole wages for hundreds of hours in which he never worked," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will relentlessly pursue anyone who violates the public trust and steals from taxpayers."

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance and his office for their assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting this matter.

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