



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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Contact Bill Reynolds: 518-414-1299

INSPECTOR GENERAL: CONVICTED STATE EMPLOYEE TO REPAY STATE \$6,000 IN FALSE TRAVEL CLAIMS

A former New York State employee has pleaded guilty and was sentenced today for stealing \$6,000 from the state through the filing of false travel claims, according to New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott. The former employee has been ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution to the state and sentenced to three years of probation. The former employee has already paid \$1500 back to the state.

Jeffrey N. Sealy, 33, of the Bronx, was a Provisional Standards Compliance Analyst with the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). After OPWDD discovered that he made unauthorized charges on his travel credit card over a seven month period, OPWDD dismissed Sealy from his position and referred the matter to the Inspector General. He was employed at OPWDD for approximately one year.

“It should be clear to any public servant that a state-issued credit card for professional travel expenses does not entitle them to pay for visits to restaurants or pool halls, or to put gas in their personal vehicle,” said Inspector General Scott. “This flagrant abuse violates both the public trust and the law. Any and all suspected abuse of state credit cards will be thoroughly investigated by my office, and those found to be abusing these cards will be brought to justice.”

Sealy purchased three meals per day on many occasions, including a visit to Hooters. He paid for billiards with the card and used it to buy gasoline and to pay for parking for his own vehicle. Additionally, he submitted for mileage reimbursement for use of his personal vehicle. Sealy used the card on an almost daily basis including days when he was not scheduled to work, including while on vacation.

Sealy was sentenced by the Hon. Laurie Peterson of New York City Criminal Court.

Sealy’s salary was \$51,268. He was employed at OPWDD’s 75 Morton Street, New York, NY offices.

Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police and OPWDD for their assistance in the case, and District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. for the prosecution of this matter.

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