



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

STATE MECHANIC USED GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD TO PURCHASE CAR PARTS AND TIRES FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL USE

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest of a State Office of General Services (“OGS”) motor equipment mechanic on charges he used his government-issued credit card to purchase tires and car parts for his personal use and subsequently filed fraudulent paperwork in an attempt to conceal his thefts from auditors.

Daniel Sequin, 41, of Livingston Avenue, Scotia, was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Tampering with Physical Evidence and two counts each of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all felonies.

“This defendant shamelessly used his government position and resources to steal from taxpayers and support an illicit car parts supply line for friends and family,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use my office and the resources at my disposal to vigorously pursue anybody who violates the public trust and steals from taxpayers.”

“Public employees who exploit the privileges of their position do so at the expense of hardworking taxpayers, and erode trust in our government,” said **Attorney General Schneiderman**. “I will continue working to root out and fully prosecute public employees who defraud the system.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott with the cooperation and assistance of OGS revealed that from November 2014 to February 2015, Sequin used his State-issued credit card to purchase \$2,561 worth of tires and car parts for himself, another OGS employee, and an OGS employee’s wife. On March 10, 2015, OGS auditors contacted Sequin and told him they planned to conduct an audit of all tires in his work garage at 11 a.m. that day. Sequin asked that the audit be conducted an hour later and in the meantime he instructed another OGS employee to purchase six tires and bring them back to the garage. After the audit was completed, Sequin asked the other employee to return those six tires to the retail store from which he purchased them. Sequin also altered multiple auto parts receipts to try to conceal the identifying vehicle information so that an OGS auditor would not know that auto parts were purchased for non-State vehicles. OGS subsequently brought this matter to the Inspector General for investigation.

Sequin was arraigned in Albany City Court and released pending his reappearance in court on March 13.

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

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Office of General Services for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Attorney General Schneiderman and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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