



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN USED STATE ISSUED CREDIT CARD TO BUY PERSONAL FUEL AND AUTO REPAIRS FOR HIMSELF AND OTHERS

SYRACUSE - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy-Scott announced the arrest of a State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) engineering technician who used a State-issued credit card to buy more than \$3,000 in gasoline and auto repairs for his own and others’ personal use.

Eric Teller, 37, of Village Boulevard South, Baldwinsville, an engineering technician for the DOT, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both felonies, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between late 2012 and summer 2014 Teller repeatedly used his State-issued credit card to pay for gasoline and auto repairs for his own personal use. He also used the credit card, which is only to be used to make work-related purchases, to buy gasoline for others, some he knew and some he didn’t, who would then pay him cash for the fuel at a reduced rate.

“This State employee repeatedly abused his position and violated the public’s trust,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott, “I will diligently pursue anyone who uses government resources to improperly enrich themselves.”

Teller was arraigned in the City of Syracuse Court and released pending further court action.

Inspector General Leahy-Scott thanked the DOT for its assistance with the investigation, the State Police for the assistance with the arrest and Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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

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