



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN SENTENCED TO FULL RESTITUTION FOR USING GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD TO BUY PERSONAL FUEL AND AUTO REPAIRS FOR HIMSELF AND OTHERS

SYRACUSE - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the sentencing of a former New York State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) engineering technician who used a State-issued credit card to buy more than \$4,000 in gasoline and auto repairs for his own and others’ personal use.

Eric Teller, 38, of Village Boulevard South, Baldwinsville, a former engineering technician for the DOT, was sentenced today subsequent to his November guilty plea admitting the thefts. As part of the sentencing, Teller was ordered to pay \$4,304 restitution and sentenced to three years of probation supervision and a \$200 court surcharge. He resigned from his State position upon pleading guilty.

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 abused his position and stole taxpayer resources,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott, “I will pursue anyone who uses public funds to improperly enrich themselves.”

Teller’s case was handled in the City of Syracuse Court.

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

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