



## NEWS

From New York State Inspector General  
**Ellen N. Biben**

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### **Three State Workers Charged with Abusing Government Issued Credit Cards**

*Workers improperly used State charge cards to pay their rent, for vacation, bar tabs, and to buy a gift card*

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New York State Inspector General Ellen Biben today announced the arrests of three state employees from two separate agencies for abusing the credit cards they were issued for official business use only.

The workers, two from the State Department of Health (DOH) and one from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), allegedly used their state-issued credit cards for personal purchases such as rent for an apartment, vehicle rental, bar tabs, and to buy a gift card.

Marrion Arrington, 42, of Albany, a secretary for the State Department of Health's Division of Epidemiology, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a felony, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

Barbara Tyson, 55, of Schenectady, a former secretary for the State Department of Health's Bureau of Pharmacy Policy and Operations, was charged with four counts of Petit Larceny and one count of Official Misconduct, misdemeanors.

Bridget Noradki, 29, of Mechanicville, a former Developmental Aide for the State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, was charged with Petit Larceny and Attempted Petit Larceny, misdemeanors.

Inspector General Biben said, "Many employees are entrusted with state-issued credit cards to assist with their job-related duties and responsibilities, and not their personal expenses. New Yorkers rightfully expect that government employees do their jobs with integrity, and my office will continue to vigorously root out those who violate that trust."

Arrington, according to the criminal complaint, used her state-issued credit card to pay for personal items including two payments to the Albany Housing Authority for rent and the rental of a car for more than two months; totaling \$2,839.26. The Department of

Health originally issued her the card so that she could purchase office supplies and book business travel arrangements for co-workers.

Arrington began state service in 1993 and is currently on leave. Her annual salary is \$43,780. Arrington was arraigned on December 21, 2011, before Albany City Court Justice William A. Carter and released on her own recognizance pending further court action.

Tyson, according to the criminal complaint, used her state- issued credit card to pay for a personal U-Haul storage unit and for three bar tabs at the Anna O'Keeffe's Pub in Albany. The Department of Health originally issued her the card so that she could purchase office supplies for the state offices in which she worked. She was accused of using her state-issued card for approximately \$400 in personal purchases.

Tyson began state service in 1978 and was terminated March 19, 2011 at a final annual salary of \$44,762. Tyson was arraigned on December 23, 2011, before Albany City Court Justice William A. Carter and released on her own recognizance pending further court action.

Noradki, according to the criminal complaint, improperly used her state-issued credit card last April to purchase \$42 in gas and a \$100 gift card. She was previously issued the credit card so that she could purchase equipment and supplies for the Clifton Park Twilight House, an OPWDD residential facility where she was assigned. She was accused of using her state-issued card for more than \$140 in personal purchases.

Noradki started State service in January 2006 and resigned this October with a final annual salary of \$36,929. Noradki was arraigned December 15, 2011, by Halfmoon Town Justice Kevin Tollissen on the gift card charge and released on her own recognizance pending further court action. She was also charged in Clifton Park for the gas purchase and, due to other unrelated charges, bail was set at \$5,000.

Inspector General Biben thanked the offices of Saratoga County District Attorney James Murphy, Albany County District Attorney David Soares and the New York State Police for their assistance with these cases.

The defendants are presumed innocent of the charges until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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