



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 23, 2016
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FORMER SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING BRIBES

Defendant Received As Much As \$100,000 in Bribes

BUFFALO - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and acting Erie County District Attorney Michael J. Flaherty, Jr., today announced the indictment and arrest of a former State University of New York University at Buffalo (“UB”) maintenance supervisor on charges he solicited and received bribes while employed by the State.

Dean Yerry, 63, of Henderson, Nevada, formerly of Sloan, New York, was indicted by an Erie County Grand Jury on the charges of Bribe Receiving in the Second Degree, a felony, and Conspiracy to Prevent Competitive Bidding or Competitive Offering on Public Contracts, a misdemeanor. He was arrested in Henderson and extradited back to Erie County to be arraigned today on the indicted charges.

The investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Yerry used his position as a UB maintenance supervisor to solicit and receive payments from a painting contractor. From the end of 2013 through 2014, Yerry received payments from the contractor in exchange for assisting the contractor win painting contracts for student living facilities at the school. The painter received in excess of \$1 million for these contracts, and the investigation found Yerry received as much as \$100,000 in bribes.

“This defendant succumbed to criminal greed as he used his State position to manipulate the procurement process and give a favored contractor an unfair advantage in exchange for bribes,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “He abused his position and he violated the public trust. I will relentlessly pursue anyone who uses their government position to enrich themselves through criminal acts.”

During the course of the investigation, Yerry retired from UB and relocated to Henderson, Nevada.

“It was this defendant’s responsibility to ensure that taxpayer funds were spent wisely and properly and that contractors employed by UB were the best for the job. He enriched himself at the expense of the UB community,” said **acting Erie County District Attorney Flaherty**. “My office will continue to collaborate with our law enforcement partners to root out public corruption and theft from taxpayers.”

Yerry was arraigned today in Erie County Court before the Hon. Thomas P. Franczyk and remanded to the Erie County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail pending a future court appearance.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Department of Labor for their assistance with the investigation, the City of Henderson, Nevada, Police Department for their assistance with the arrest, the United

States Marshals Service for transporting Yerry from Nevada to New York, and the Erie County District Attorney's Office for prosecuting this matter.

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

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