



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 21, 2017
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

FORMER SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR PLEADS GUILTY TO ACCEPTING BRIBES

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

BUFFALO - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of a former State University of New York University at Buffalo (“UB”) maintenance supervisor who solicited and received as much as \$100,000 in bribes while employed by the State.

Dean Yerry, 63, of Henderson, Nevada, formerly of Sloan, New York, pleaded guilty today in State Supreme Court in Buffalo to the charge of Bribe Receiving in the Second Degree, a felony.

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 abused his position to subvert the government procurement process to greedily and brazenly enrich himself while giving his favored contractor an unfair advantage.” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “He violated the public trust and I will continue to use my office to pursue anyone who uses their official position for criminal means.”

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

Yerry pleaded guilty in New York State Supreme Court and remained out on bail pending sentencing on May 2, 2017.

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 Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn and his office for prosecuting this matter.

###