



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2, 2017
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FORMER SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES

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

BUFFALO - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced that a former State University of New York University at Buffalo (“UB”) maintenance supervisor, who solicited and received bribes while employed by the State, was sentenced today to jail, probation and a \$40,000 fine for his crimes.

Dean Yerry, 63, of Henderson, Nevada, formerly of Sloan, New York, was sentenced today in State Supreme Court in Buffalo to six months in jail, five years of probation and a \$40,000 fine. Yerry pleaded guilty in February to the charge of Bribe Receiving in the Second Degree, a felony.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Yerry used his position as a UB maintenance supervisor to solicit and receive improper payments from a painting contractor. From the end of 2013 through 2014, Yerry received payments from the contractor to obtain 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 violated the public trust, subverted the government procurement process and greedily enriched himself while giving a favored contractor an unfair advantage.” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to use all of the resources of my office to pursue anyone who uses their official position to commit crimes.”

During the course of the investigation, Yerry retired from UB and relocated to Henderson, Nevada. Yerry was extradited from Nevada to New York to face these criminal charges.

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.

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