



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Catherine Leahy Scott – Inspector General

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MANHATTAN MESSENGER USED PHONY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO STEAL MORE THAN \$280,000 IN UNEMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a Manhattan messenger on charges that he defrauded the government of over \$245,000 in Welfare benefits (Safety Net, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid benefits) and \$37,000 in unemployment insurance benefits.

Jeffrey Green, 43, of West 204th Street, Manhattan, was indicted on charges of Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all felonies.

Inspector General Scott's investigation commenced when New York State Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Special Investigations advised that Green was fraudulently collecting unemployment insurance benefits while employed. Subsequent investigation determined that between January 2009 and May 2013, Green engaged in a scheme in which he intentionally concealed his unemployment insurance benefits and employment income totaling over \$116,000 in order to collect more \$245,000 in fraudulent benefits from public assistance programs.

In order to carry out his scheme, Green created two phony social security numbers and dates of birth, one to use while employed and the other to collect unemployment insurance benefits. Green's use of phony dates of birth and social security numbers allowed him to conceal his sources of income from both welfare and DOL officials. At various intervals during the period charged in the fraud, Green completed and submitted welfare recertification documents to the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) in which he failed to disclose that he was both employed and collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

As a result of these false filings, Green improperly obtained a total of \$245,127 in public assistance benefits as follows: \$17,275 in Safety Net cash assistance, \$10,528 in SNAP (also known as food stamps) benefits and \$217,324 from Medicaid. In addition, Green collected a total of \$37,000 in unemployment insurance benefits by failing to report that he was employed as a messenger.

Green was arraigned in Manhattan Supreme Court and is due back in court Dec. 1.

Inspector General Scott thanked DOL Acting Commissioner Mario J. Musolino, DOL's Office of Special Investigations, and HRA Commissioner Steven Banks for their assistance in the investigation. Inspector General Scott also thanked Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance and his staff for prosecuting this case.

The Defendant is considered innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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The New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.state.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223.