



**Offices of the
Inspector General**

NEWS RELEASE
From New York State Inspector General
Letizia Tagliafierro

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**BUFFALO MAN CHARGED WITH STEALING NEARLY \$6,500
IN WELFARE BENEFITS**

New York State Inspector General Letizia Tagliafierro today announced the arrest and arraignment of a Buffalo man who allegedly stole \$6,497 in food stamp benefits by failing to disclose his employment income when applying for welfare benefits.

Donald White, 57, of Buffalo, was charged in Buffalo City Court before Judge Barbara Johnson-Lee with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. White is scheduled to return to court January 27.

An investigation by the Offices of the Inspector General and Erie County Department of Social Services found that White lied on his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application by claiming he was unemployed when he was working at Kaleida Health. White would not have qualified for these benefits had he accurately reported his employment income.

“This individual’s alleged actions caused him to receive public funds to which he was not entitled,” said Inspector General Tagliafierro. “The public welfare system exists to help those who truly need assistance, and we will continue to ensure that those receiving benefits are following the law.”

Inspector General Tagliafierro thanked the Erie County Department of Social Services for their partnership with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn and his office for prosecuting this case.

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

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