



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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Release #01-2019  
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019**

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**DOI STATEMENT ON SENTENCING OF FORMER PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR  
OF STATEN ISLAND DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR EMBEZZLING  
MORE THAN \$440,000 IN GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

Margaret Garnett, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") issued the following statement on the sentencing of WILLIAM NELSON, a former Director of Procurement at the Richmond County District Attorney's Office (RCDA), to 24 months in prison for embezzling over \$440,000 from the RCDA. NELSON was ordered to pay full restitution for the amount of the theft. U.S. District Judge Raymond J. Dearie imposed the sentence in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn. DOI partnered with the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett said, "For over a decade, Nelson disguised his fraud from colleagues and took hundreds of thousands of dollars in law enforcement funds to finance his personal interests, from vacations to procuring jewelry, sports memorabilia and knives. Today's prison sentence underscores this message: Public funds are to be used for the benefit of the people we serve, not for personal profit. DOI thanks the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York and the FBI for their partnership in this case."

NELSON, 45, of Staten Island, N.Y., was the Director of Procurement at RCDA receiving an annual salary of \$93,495. He began work at RCDA in June 2005 and resigned in December 2016. He was arrested on federal charges in August 2017 and pleaded guilty in April 2018.

Read about his arrest and DOI's report on the investigation here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doi/reports/pdf/2017/2017-08-03-NelsonRelease-Rpt.pdf>

Read about his guilty plea here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doi/press-releases/2018/apr>

According to the indictment and DOI's investigation, for approximately 10 years between 2006 and 2016, NELSON stole over \$440,000 from the RCDA as part of a long-term scheme in which NELSON used two RCDA American Express credit cards to purchase items including jewelry, clothing, toys, sporting goods and memorabilia, alcohol, video games and movies, electronics, knives, handbags, collectibles, event tickets, meals, lodging, airfare, excursions, and online services that he then used for his own benefit and the benefit of others. NELSON also used PayPal to transfer thousands of dollars from the RCDA credit cards to his own personal bank account and attempted to hide his conduct by concealing credit card statements, mischaracterizing the nature of purchases, and using his authority to approve payments of his fraudulent expenditures.

DOI Commissioner Garnett thanked Richard P. Donoghue, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and William F. Sweeney, Jr., Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI's New York Office, and their staffs, for their partnership in this investigation. DOI Commissioner Garnett also thanks

Michael E. McMahon, Richmond County District Attorney, and his staff for their cooperation and assistance in connection with this investigation.

The investigation was conducted for DOI by Assistant Inspector General Sara Leibowitz and Inspector General Ann Petterson, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Andrew Brunsten.

Assistant United States Attorney Maria Cruz Melendez, from the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District, is prosecuting the case in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.*

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