



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General

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OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL PARTNERS WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES IN INVESTIGATION OF MISUSE OF SNAP BENEFITS

The Rochester Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit, USDA Office of Inspector General, NYS Welfare Inspector General's Office, and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance are conducting investigations into misuse of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in Rochester area stores. As part of this investigation, on May 21st, 2015, a search warrant was served at Discount Food Market located at 752 Ave D in the City of Rochester, NY. Based on the investigation and search warrant, charges are forthcoming. The Neighborhood Service Center is also addressing the location through the nuisance abatement process.

Today's search warrant detail involved law enforcement officers and investigators from the following agencies: Rochester Police Department, USDA Office of Inspector General, NYS Welfare Inspector General's Office, Homeland Security, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, United States Secret Service, and Monroe County DHS Social Services Investigations.

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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.