



Press release from the office of
Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan



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Former Leyden Police Chief placed on probation after admitting theft from town

GREENFIELD – Former Leyden Police Chief Daniel J. Galvis was placed on probation for one year and ordered to pay the town restitution of \$10,950 after he admitted to sufficient facts for charges stemming from his unauthorized sale of a skid steer loader, a motor, a trailer and a Ford truck, all owned by the town.

Galvis admitted to sufficient facts today regarding single counts of larceny over \$1,200 and violating the standards of conduct for public employees before Greenfield District Court Judge William Mazanec, who continued those charges without a finding for one year while Galvis is on probation. That disposition means if Galvis makes restitution within one month and stays out of further trouble with the law, the charges will eventually be dismissed.

Acting on a plea agreement offered jointly by Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Atallah and defense attorney James McCall, Judge Mazanec dismissed 2 counts of larceny of a motor vehicle, a single count of larceny over \$1,200 and 2 counts of violating the standards of conduct for public employees. The Commonwealth agreed to the dismissal of those charges because they were consolidated into the charges Galvis admitted to.

During the change of plea today, Leyden Select Board Chair Katherine DiMatteo offered a statement about the impact the incident had on the town, the townspeople, and those holding elected office. Her statement read, in part: “It is up to the court to help return the town to health and hold this man whose greed and entitlement poisoned a very deep well to account through his conviction and restoration of the lost value of property, and funds, as well as compensation for the trauma and lost trust for the citizens of Leyden.”

The charges were brought last year following an investigation launched in 2022 by the Office of the Inspector General into allegations that Galvis had embezzled from the Town of Leyden by improperly taking possession of equipment owned by the Leyden Police Department and selling some of those items without returning proceeds back to the Town. The investigation was spurred by a complaint made to the OIG’s Fraud Hotline and it concluded that Galvis was responsible for the theft of a skid steer loader, a motor, a trailer, and a Ford truck between 2018 and 2021.

At the time of the arraignment, Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro issued a statement reading: “It is an affront to the community when a public official violates their oath of office to enrich themselves, as is alleged in this case. I am most appreciative that District Attorney Sullivan and his team brought forward this prosecution and know its significance to the people of Leyden. I hope that the work done by the OIG investigators underscores our commitment to protect public resources from fraud, waste or abuse.”

Galvis still faces civil enforcement proceedings from the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission in relation to these and other allegations as laid out in an Order to Show Cause issued in April 2024.