



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Joint OIG Investigation Results in Larceny Convictions for Two Buzzards Bay Water District Employees, October 2016

Two former employees of the Buzzards Bay Water District pleaded guilty on October 28, 2016, to stealing nearly \$200,000 from the water district in a case investigated by the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”).

Caitlin McGuire (formerly known as Caitlin Rocheleau), 36, of Forestdale, and John Ethier, 29, of Buzzards Bay, had each been indicted in Barnstable County Superior Court a year earlier and charged with one count of larceny over \$250. The OIG’s investigation found that McGuire had abused her position as treasurer of the Buzzards Bay Water District to write \$198,000 in checks to herself and to water district technician John Ethier in addition to their weekly paychecks. The two former employees used the money to purchase Percocet illegally.

The OIG began its investigation in May 2015 after receiving a report on the OIG hotline of suspected embezzlement at the Buzzards Bay Water District. The OIG found evidence that McGuire had written dozens of extra payroll checks to herself and Ethier. The OIG worked with the Attorney General’s Office and the Massachusetts State Police to stop the illegal activity.

On November 2, 2016, Barnstable Superior Court Judge Robert Rufo sentenced McGuire and Ethier to five years of probation and ordered each to pay \$9,752 in restitution to the water district. Judge Rufo also ordered each defendant to undergo drug and alcohol testing and to not seek employment in a job with fiduciary responsibilities.

For more information on the prosecution, see Attorney General Maura Healey’s press release at [Two Former Employees Plead Guilty in Connection With Stealing Nearly \\$200,000 From Buzzards Bay Water District](#).