



**Office of the District Attorney**

**P. David Soares**

6 Lodge Street

Albany, New York 12207

(518) 487-5460

(518) 487-5093 FAX

Contact: Cecilia Logue (518) 275-4710

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## **Identity Theft Sting Leads to Arrest of State Worker**



**ALBANY, NY** – Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that GARY OXENDINE, 55, of Albany, was arraigned on (1) Count of Receiving a Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a Class E Felony, on Wednesday evening in Bethlehem Town Court.

The charges allege that on or about March 20, 2012 OXENDINE, who is employed as a public servant by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, did accept payment of \$500 in exchange for providing documents to an individual known to police that contained personal identifying information of multiple individuals that he took from the custody of his employer.

The conduct was initially reported to the Bethlehem Police Department after a resident was notified that a credit account had been opened in their name at a local retail store. Knowing this not to be accurate, the resident reported the identity theft to authorities. This information was turned over to the District Attorney's Office and a long term investigation led by Criminal

Investigator Steven D. Stein, along with investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, uncovered that the source of the identity theft to be state worker OXENDINE.

A search warrant was issued and OXENDINE was arrested for his role in selling personal information that directly violates his duty as a public servant.

“Identity theft is a serious crime that can have lasting negative effects on victims. An observant resident who reported identity theft and criminal impersonation to police led to the uncovering of a larger scheme that involved gross misuse of personal identifying documents,” said DA David Soares. “I commend the vigilance of this resident and applaud the investigators from the District Attorney’s Office, as well as the FBI taskforce, the New York State Department of Financial Services and the Bethlehem Police Department.”

OXENDINE was remanded to Albany County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$20,000 bail and is due in Albany City Court for a preliminary hearing on June 12, 2012.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue.

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*All parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty*