



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**NEW YORK STATE AUDITOR ARRESTED FOR SUBMITTING
FALSE FOOD STAMP INSPECTION REPORTS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and KRISTINE HAMANN, the New York State Inspector General, announced the arrest today of OLAND SALTES on a charge stemming from his submission of false audit reports in connection with the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Food Stamp Program. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

SALTES is an Audit and Quality Control Management Specialist with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Bureau of Audit and Quality Control ("OTDA"). During the relevant time period, SALTES worked primarily out of OTDA's office in Manhattan.

In his capacity as an Audit and Quality Control Management Specialist, SALTES was responsible for conducting USDA-mandated reviews of the eligibility of randomly selected Food Stamp recipients, the results of which were then submitted to USDA. A visit to the home of the selected Food Stamp recipient was a required component of each eligibility review.

From December 2005 until October 2006, SALTES was assigned approximately 47 cases for review. In approximately 40 of these cases, SALTES submitted a form indicating that he had visited the home of the relevant Food Stamp recipient and collected required information and evidence during that visit. However, investigators with the State of New York, Office of the State Inspector General contacted approximately 26 of those 40

Food Stamp recipients, of whom approximately 15 stated that they never received the visit that SALTES claimed in his reports to have made.

SALTES, 54, of Manhattan, is charged with one count of making false statements within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the United States government. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the State of New York, Office of the State Inspector General.

This case is being prosecuted by the Public Corruption Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL A. LEVY is in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Complaint is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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