

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
John C. Egan, COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, November 23, 2009

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER JOHN EGAN
REGARDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT AND INVESTIGATION OF
THE CONDUCT AND SUPERVISION OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES'
NIGHT CLEANING CREW

"I have received and reviewed the Inspector General's Report detailing illegal and inappropriate conduct by certain Office of General Services' (OGS) employees and supervisors.

Since its initial referral to the Inspector General, in August 2008, the Office of General Services has cooperated with the investigators and prosecutors associated with the Inspector General, State Police, and Office of the Attorney General. While these investigations were pending OGS refrained from pursuing any disciplinary action so as not to interfere with their action.

On November 12, 2009, following the announcement of felony pleas in Albany County Court, I indicated the following in a written statement to all OGS employees:

... I will be pursuing what actions, or series of inactions, provided these two individuals the latitude to assume immunity from oversight and supervision during an extended period of employment, flout their obligations and responsibilities, and assume an atmosphere in which intolerable and offensive behavior became casual and flagrant.

The release of today's disturbing report provides me with the opportunity to act administratively against those who were found to have used drugs, engaged in discriminatory behavior, or failed to meet the agency's expectations or conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their supervisory positions.

Today I have placed on administrative leave three additional individuals identified in the Inspector General's report as being derelict in their duties. The Office of General Services has initiated a review of the facts and statements made by all witnesses participating in the Inspector General's investigation.

As Commissioner I intend to promptly pursue the appropriate disciplinary actions, including the option of termination, consistent with existing labor agreements and statutes.

As a life-long public servant, I am appalled by the conduct described in this report. For nearly 50 years, the Office of General Services has earned a reputation of being a responsive, professional and competent fixture in the ongoing operation of government.

Further, I have long held that management's central objective must be a commitment to set and maintain a performance standard built upon a foundation of unquestioned integrity. I remain committed to that standard."

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A copy of the agency's complete response to the Inspector General may be accessed on the OGS website at: www.ogs.state.ny.us/about//Press/Docs/2009/OGS_Response_To_IG.pdf

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