



Office of the MTA Inspector General
Daniel G. Cort



mtaig.ny.gov
Release #12-2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

**CONTACT: Eric Lenkowitz
Milana Meytes
press@mtaig.org
212.878.0000**

METRO-NORTH SUPERVISOR REPEATEDLY TAMPERED WITH GPS DEVICE IN HIS WORK TRUCK, USED IT FOR SHOPPING TRIPS AND OTHER PERSONAL ERRANDS

MTA Inspector General Daniel G. Cort announced today the results of an investigation that found a Metro-North Railroad (MNR) supervisor disabled the GPS device on his work vehicle more than 100 times in an 8-month period. He also used the truck to run personal errands, including taking trips to a shopping mall and a Bass Pro Shops, and driving to a co-worker's home.

The MNR employee, a Structures Supervisor based out of the MTA yard at Bridgeport, Connecticut, admitted to the misconduct and resigned in lieu of termination following the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigation.

"This supervisor shamelessly disconnected his work truck's GPS device so that he could drive around and run errands undetected, sometimes while on the clock," said IG Daniel Cort. "He set a terrible example for the 30 employees he supervised, and his resignation is a just outcome. I commend MNR for bringing this matter to our attention and taking the results of our investigation seriously."

OIG's investigation began in July 2023 with a referral from MNR's Security Department. After noticing frequent GPS device disconnections and inspecting his vehicle, MNR suspected that the supervisor had repeatedly tampered with the vehicle's GPS device, which was located under the dashboard and secured with screws. Even after a contractor found the GPS connection wires loose, sprayed them with tamper-proof orange lacquer and re-zip tied them, and securely reinstalled the GPS device, the device disconnections continued.

OIG discovered at least 111 instances from July 15, 2023 to March 18, 2024, when the GPS device had been disconnected. The review of the truck's GPS device data revealed:

- 18 instances when the device was disconnected and re-connected on the same day;
- 60 overnight disconnections when the device was disconnected in the afternoon or evening and reconnected the following day; and

- 31 instances when the device was disconnected for consecutive days, including over the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years' holiday weekends.

OIG installed a second, hidden GPS device in the supervisor's truck and found that he used the vehicle for personal business while off duty on 40 of 57 days reviewed. He used the vehicle while off duty to drive to a co-worker's home 21 times and to run a variety of personal errands. While on duty, his unauthorized use of the truck included shopping trips from the Bridgeport Yard to Bass Pro Shops and the Connecticut Post Mall a combined five times — without using any leave for the extended breaks.

OIG recommended that MNR take whatever action it deemed appropriate. MNR suspended the supervisor without pay and served him with disciplinary charges. On August 12, 2024, the supervisor, who had been employed by MNR for 12 years, resigned in lieu of termination. MNR said it would seek to recoup compensation paid to the supervisor for the hours that he did not work.

[Read the report here.](#)

The MTA Inspector General encourages all members of the public to reach out to report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse at any of the MTA agencies.

Online: <https://mtaig.ny.gov/Pages/ComplaintForm.aspx>
Phone: 1-800.MTA.IG4U (1.800.682.4448)
Email: complaints@mtaig.org