

## SUMMARY

### **Bus Driver Off-Route** **MTA/OIG Report #11-10**

OIG received a complaint that on three different occasions, while “dead-heading” an express bus (i.e., returning without passengers) to the Charleston Depot, a NYC Transit bus driver left the Staten Island Expressway and parked off-route for approximately half an hour. The complainant alleged that on each occasion, just before the bus restarted, a woman exited the bus, walked to a car parked nearby and drove away. The complainant provided OIG with a video recording of his observations that corroborated the allegation.

Through investigation, the OIG established both the identity of the driver and that he operated the bus on all three occasions. We examined the driver’s time records and learned that he claimed to have been stuck in traffic on two of those occasions for a total of approximately two hours. We also learned that the driver had been suspended 14 times in the five years that he worked for NYC Transit. When we interviewed the driver he admitted operating his bus off-route and allowing a friend to enter the bus while he stopped. He also admitted submitting two overtime slips claiming he was stuck in traffic when he purposely stopped off-route.

Based on the OIG findings and recommendation NYC Transit terminated the driver. The termination was upheld on appeal to an arbitrator.

#### **Press**

[The Daily News 06/16/11 - Face It ... Yet Soooo Busted](#)

[The Daily News 06/17/11 - Booze Clues](#)

[The Daily News 06/28/11 - Detour-takin' bus driver's firing upheld](#)