

SUMMARY

Copper Theft from the LIRR

In January 2013, following an investigation by MTA Inspector General Barry L. Kluger, Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, who joined the investigation months ago, announced that a grand jury has indicted 17 people for stealing valuable copper wire belonging to the Long Island Rail Road, selling it to a scrapyard, and keeping the cash. Fifteen of the 17 are Rail Road employees.

As a result of the joint investigation, it is alleged that the defendants, often while on duty, would steal new and recyclable copper wire stored in Rail Road yards, and use LIRR trucks to transport the wire to their own personal vehicles. From there, they sold the stolen wire to a scrap metal company – at scrap value – for more than \$250,000.

Regarding these thefts, Inspector General Kluger stated:

“The brazen actions of these defendants and the nature and magnitude of the thefts, as alleged in the indictment, are certainly alarming. Now that this phase of the investigation is complete, my office has begun to examine the apparent lack of effective supervision of these employees, as well as the evident vulnerabilities in the LIRR’s inventory controls. How could these thefts have happened, and continued over such a long period of time, are questions that need to be answered. I wish to thank Nassau County District Attorney Rice and her staff, for joining us in aggressively pursuing the matter, and devoting substantial resources, time, and attention to this investigation. I also thank the MTA Police Department, which played a significant role in our work. Lastly, I acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing cooperation and assistance of the senior management at the LIRR.”

Press

[**NY Times 1/26/13 - LIRR Employees Accused of Netting \\$250,000 from Copper Wire Stolen at Work**](#)

[**Newsday 1/26/13 - LIRR's Latest Scrap: The Copper Wire Caper**](#)

[**The Wall Street Journal 1/26/13 - LIRR Workers in Theft Case**](#)

[**Nassau County District Attorney's Office Press Release 1/25/13 - 17 People Charged with Stealing More Than \\$250K Worth of Copper Wire from the Long Island Rail Road**](#)

[**Statement of Barry L. Kluger - 1/25/13**](#)