



105



New details emerge on State Police payroll head's alleged theft scheme



105



DAVID L RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The State Police investigation into Denise Ezekiel's alleged theft overlapped with probes into alleged pay fraud by state troopers. It's unclear, however, if Ezekiel is tied to those other cases.

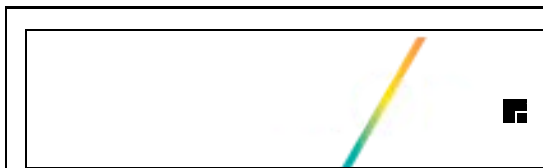
By [Matt Rocheleau](#) and [Kay Lazar](#)

GLOBE STAFF APRIL 19, 2018

New details emerged Thursday showing how the head of payroll for the Massachusetts State Police [allegedly stole](#) nearly \$24,000 from the agency.

Denise Ezekiel, 49, of Holbrook, allegedly transferred the money in a series of payments to her personal bank account, attempting to disguise them as reimbursements for travel and training, according to a criminal complaint issued against her on March 6 in Framingham District Court.

ADVERTISING



[inRead](#) invented by Teads

Ezekiel admitted to the theft when State Police investigators questioned her, the complaint said.

ADVERTISEMENT

**OPEN FOR
BUSINESS**

(AND EVERYTHING ELSE LIKE
DATA SHARING, TECHNOLOGY,
PEOPLE, IDEAS...)



REFINITIV
DATA IS JUST THE BEGINNING

The department's investigation into her case overlapped with probes into alleged pay fraud by troopers. But State Police spokesman David Procopio said Thursday that Ezekiel's case had "no connection" to those other cases. He said investigators audited the payroll department and have not discovered any other missing money by "anyone else in that unit."

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

Ezekiel, a longtime state worker who oversaw a payroll of at least \$290 million last year, has been on unpaid administrative leave since Nov. 1, the department said.

That same day, State Police Major John M. Lannon of the investigative services division began reviewing financial discrepancies tied to Ezekiel that had been brought to the attention of two top State Police administrators, the complaint said.

Ezekiel electronically sent 29 payments — each one between \$500 and \$950 — to her personal bank account over a 15-month span ending in late October, four days before she was put on leave, Lannon wrote in the complaint.

Lannon wrote that he found evidence of the payments, which totaled \$23,900, in department records and Ezekiel's bank records.

ADVERTISEMENT



Check Out These 14 Gadgets You'll Love

Ezekiel, a civilian supervisor, was paid at an annual rate of \$95,000, records show. She previously worked at the state's Department of Revenue.

Lannon interviewed other payroll employees and determined that Ezekiel, who was in charge of final auditing of all travel and training reimbursements, acted alone.

Ezekiel is to be arraigned Monday on one count of larceny over \$250. An attorney listed in court documents as representing her did not respond Thursday to requests for comment.

The criminal charge carries a maximum punishment of up to five years in prison, or a fine of up to \$25,000 and up to two years in jail.

The internal investigation into Ezekiel launched as the department was facing, and investigating, serious allegations of overtime abuse by troopers. Since then, the agency has been under fire for a host of other

[scandals](#) — including other payroll blunders — prompting additional investigations and criticism from Governor Charlie Baker and legislators, some of whom have called for greater oversight of the agency.

ADVERTISEMENT



Check Out These 14 Gadgets You'll Love

On Thursday, Baker took ownership of the recent flood of State Police scandals.

“Stuff that goes on on my watch belongs to me,” Baker said on WGBH radio. “And what I would hope people do would be respect the fact that I can’t possibly know everything about everything, but that once issues are raised we will do whatever we can to fix them and address them.”

The criminal case against Ezekiel was not known publicly until [Wednesday](#), when [MassLive](#) reported that her name was on a list of State Police suspensions.

Ezekiel applied to receive pension benefits with the State Retirement Board just five days before the criminal complaint was filed, records show.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau

[@globe.com](mailto:kay.lazar). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele). Kay Lazar can be reached at kay.lazar

[@globe.com](mailto:kay.lazar). Follow her on Twitter [@GlobeKayLazar](https://twitter.com/GlobeKayLazar).

Show 105 Comments

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth’s last surviving child, dies at 102

‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

Yvonne Abraham | Recycling can’t fix what really ails us

Patriots could be diving into the quarterback market

Can a former agent succeed in running the Mets?

Shooting leaves a loss beyond measure

Danny Amendola released by the Dolphins

Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses

Eliza Dushku: I worked at CBS. I didn't want to be sexually harassed. I was fired

The movie is called 'The Post,' but it was the Times that got the scoop on the Pentagon Papers

Millennials aren't lazy, they're workaholics

The guy I was dating proposed — to someone else

Replace your high-tech car keys for less

Daylight saving time year round? Some Mass. officials think so

Feeling that DIY impulse? Try taking a nap instead

Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities

Recycling can't fix what really ails us

First lady has a growing ease in her official role, but not politics

At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants

Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses

New Orleans Saints fans need to get a grip

As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution

Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved

Trump will seek more money for border wall

Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

Most Popular In Metro →



Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities

In such communities as Stoneham, Hadley, Arlington, and Needham, women are being held as sex slaves. Prosecutors say the investigations are time-consuming and difficult. [More](#)

ROAD TO RECOVERY



Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

The experiences of three young adults who fatally overdosed, as told by their parents, contain lessons for addressing the opioid crisis. [More](#)



The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Salem's Rich Benoit just wanted to fix his Tesla. He ended up becoming a YouTube star. [More](#)

YVONNE ABRAHAM



Recycling can't fix what really ails us

It's a noble aim, but it doesn't get at our real problems when it comes to trash. [More](#)



As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution

Many public universities have faced significant challenges in recruiting students, ensuring quality, and managing costs — and the efforts have ended quietly. [More](#)

JENEÉ OSTERHELDT | COMMENTARY



'Text me when you get home.' We shouldn't have to say it. But we do

Women around the world say these same six words to their friends. The death of Jassy Correia is one of the many reasons we have a safety roll call. [More](#)



As the Marathon nears, Newton's hills come alive

How four awful hills, two bathrooms, and a quiet carriage road turned Newton into a marathon-training mecca. [More](#)



How dirty was Boston 50 years ago? 'The harbor was used as a waste bin'

A video shows what Boston and the harbor islands looked like in 1969. [More](#)



A Boston doctor pleaded with CVS to change its on-hold music. Now his wish may be coming true.

Dr. Steven Schlozman penned a letter bemoaning the melody. After his complaint went viral, the company said plans have been underway to enhance the phone system — including the tune. [More](#)

YVONNE ABRAHAM

Is Boston truly looking out for immigrants? Not in this case.

Something is seriously amiss if the Trump administration protects the rights of an undocumented worker better than the city of Boston does. [More](#)



People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason
For decades, the “open concept” has been a home buyers’ religion. But now, experts say, people are starting to openly yearn for walls. [More](#)

PHOTOS



A look at the awe-inspiring Ice Castles in New Hampshire

Ice Castles in Woodstock, N.H., which is made of 25,000 tons of ice using millions of gallons of water, expects 160,000 guests this year. [More](#)

Friend recalls Mass. skier killed in N.H. crash as reliable, adventurous

A Somerville man died in a ski crash at Cannon Mountain Ski Resort in Franconia, N.H., on Friday, and a Newburyport man was injured. [More](#)



3-alarm fire breaks out at under-construction high rise near Garden

The fire broke out on the 25th floor of the building. Despite nearby street closures, the Bruins’ 7 p.m. game started on time. [More](#)

DIY DREAMING



Give your china cabinet a ‘cheeky’ makeover

Why get rid of old furniture, when you can transform it with a little elbow grease, paint, and imagination? [More](#)



Incoming president of Columbia Gas pledges to fulfill promises

Mark Kempic met with residents and business owners in Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence to discuss the ongoing recovery efforts from the September gas explosions. [More](#)

DIY DREAMING

Before decluttering, think twice about those heirlooms

Nip regret in the bud by refurbishing family treasures, advises the owner of A New Leaf, a Concord consignment and redesign center. [More](#)



Trump supporters asked to leave Chelsea hotel

MA 4 Trump was holding a gathering Thursday at the Holiday Inn. The group's leader thinks the ouster was politically motivated; the hotel denies it. [More](#)



Northampton lawyer who defended nurse against death penalty set to represent Louis Coleman

David Hoose was picked to represent Coleman because of his previous experience representing clients accused of crimes that carry the death penalty. Coleman is in custody in connection with the death of Jassy Correia. [More](#)

Subscribe Now

Digital Access

Home Delivery

Gift Subscriptions

My Account

Manage my Account

Mobile Customer Service

Sign Up For Newsletters

Contact

Help

FAQs

Globe newsroom

Advertise

Order back issues

Social

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

More

ePaper

News in Education

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC