



COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

*Office of the  
County Comptroller*

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*Comptroller*

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Media Release

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**Comptroller Matthew J. Beadnell Will Hold a News Conference on Monday, September 9, 2019, 10:30 A.M. at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor.**

Thank you.

Good morning, I am Matt Beadnell, Onondaga County Comptroller. I have called this press conference to discuss the findings of our audit concerning the proper reporting of time by a department-head. This audit was conducted pursuant to the authority granted to the Comptroller by Charter, Code, and State Law.

This past spring, we received a tip from an outside source that a certain department-head was working for Uber during regular County business hours. Shortly after receiving the tip, on March 11, 2019, local media reported that Election Commissioner Dustin Czarny was in-fact an Uber driver. During an interview, Czarny affirmed that he was driving on Friday, March 1, 2019. A preliminary search reviewed his timecard to see whether he was on County-time.

The Department of Audit and Control sent requests for information regarding Czarny's work for Uber and Lyft. Both entities promptly complied with initial requests and subsequent follow-up questions.

A review of the over 300 pages of data provided, details over 90 hours during which Election Commissioner Dustin Czarny drove for Uber and Lyft during regular County business hours. Czarny's annual salary is presently \$98,753.00 which translates to an hourly rate of \$54.26. The 94 hours we have documented means Czarny collected over \$5,100.00 of taxpayers hard-earned dollars while working for Uber and Lyft.

I have forwarded the information along with our conclusions and recommendations to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the District Attorney, the County Legislature and the Attorney General. Questions regarding what actions they may take should be directed to the respective offices.

The Comptroller's Office is here to ensure tax-dollars are spent effectively, efficiently, and for their intent. So long as I am Comptroller, I promise to be a guardian and watchdog of the taxpayer's wallet to ensure fiscal integrity and accountability throughout the County. I am confident law enforcement will handle the matter professionally and appropriately.