



U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
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## **OSC obtains relief for TSA whistleblowers at Syracuse Airport after retaliation**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) helped two Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees who reported wrongdoing at the Syracuse Hancock International Airport and then experienced retaliation. The whistleblowers, Wayne Sparks and Melissa LaCroix, both received full corrective action after an OSC investigation confirmed their allegations.

Sparks, an administrative officer, disclosed misuse of a government vehicle, the misuse of financial rewards and a hostile work environment, among other misconduct. LaCroix, a program analyst, disclosed misuse of government vehicles. They reported the issues through various internal channels at the Department of Homeland Security. Shortly thereafter, each employee experienced various retaliatory actions, including a proposed 14-day suspension for one and a letter of reprimand for another.

Under the settlement agreement, the parties agreed to keep further details confidential. In addition to both employees being made whole, the supervisor in question accepted a voluntary demotion and a transfer to another location.

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*The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. The Disclosure Unit serves as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).*