



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

December 30, 2025

Chief of Police Joseph L. Cecile
Syracuse Police Department
511 S. State Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

Via Email

Re: Executive Law § 75(5)(b) Referral of Police Officer Edward Mossow
OAG Matter No. 1-794210897

Dear Chief Cecile,

The Office of the New York State Attorney General has reviewed your agency's Executive Law § 75(5)(b) referral of complaints involving Officer Edward Mossow from November 2020 to July 2024. Based on our review, we have not made a finding of a pattern or practice of misconduct, use of excessive force, or acts of dishonesty by Officer Mossow with respect to the referred complaints.

However, in DR 24-376301, Officer Mossow and his partner detained the Complainant and ordered her to empty her bag without sufficient justification. The stop was based on information the officers received from the owner of a phone who alleged that he lost his phone inside the restaurant where the Complainant worked as a cashier. The phone's owner stated that a phone-tracking app showed that the phone was at the restaurant and then was moving in the direction taken by the Complainant as she left work, but the officers' body-worn camera footage shows that the officers could see that the phone's owner was displaying a maps app that was providing directions to a fixed address, not a phone-tracking app.

Apart from the unreliable information from the app, the officers lacked additional information linking the cashier to the missing phone, which apparently had been left on the counter of the busy restaurant earlier that day. Accordingly, the officers did not have sufficient basis to detain the Complainant and order her to show them the contents of her bag. *People v. Johnson*, 40 N.Y.3d 172, 174 (2023) (reasonable suspicion for a Level 3 stop requires "specific and articulable facts which, along with any logical deductions, reasonably prompted the intrusion").

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Accordingly, we recommend that Officer Mossow receive re-training on the appropriate basis for Level 3 stops.

We appreciate the cooperation of you and your agency.

Sincerely,

Tyler Nims
Chief, Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office