

STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
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Catherine Leahy Scott INSPECTOR GENERAL

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October 8, 2014

Arlene González-Sánchez Commissioner New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services 1450 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3526

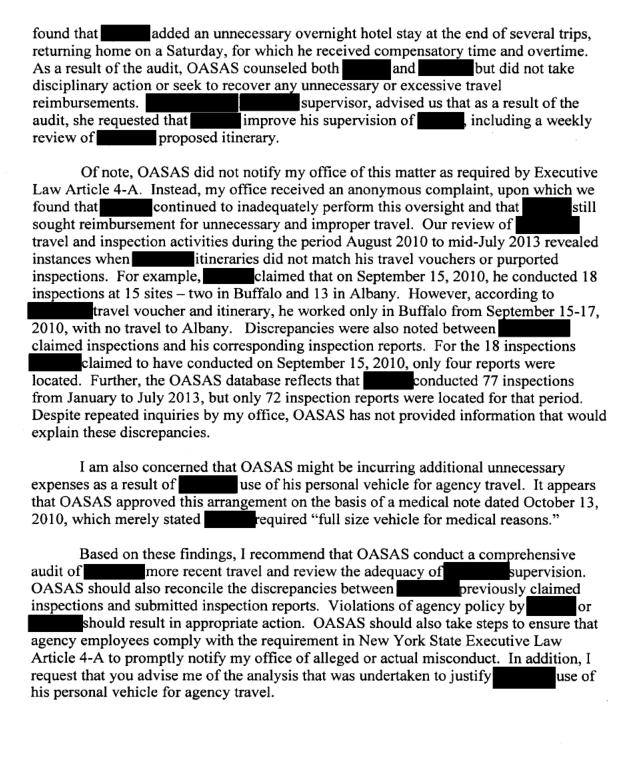
RE: NYS IG 0896-009-2011

Dear Commissioner González-Sánchez:

61 BROADWAY, SUITE 2100 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

(212) 635-3150

My office received an anonymous complaint alleging that Facilities Planner 1 at the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) submitted fraudulent travel expenditures resulting in his receipt of nearly \$13,000 in improper reimbursements. I am writing to advise you of the results of our investigation of this matter.
As part of his job duties, inspects clinics, residential facilities, and other facilities providing services to individuals with drug and alcohol dependencies. These facilities are inspected on an annual or bi-annual basis depending on the type of services they provide, unless circumstances warrant more frequent inspections. job requires statewide travel and preparation of written reports of the facility inspections he conducts.
An internal audit by OASAS in July 2010 of travel from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2010 identified approximately \$12,800 in questionable expenses, all of which were approved by his supervisor, the questionable expenses resulted from inefficiencies in timeraries, specifically his practice of lodging in locations that often were unreasonable distances from the sites he inspected. As a consequence, who was permitted to use his personal vehicle for agency business, requested and received reimbursement for travel that was excessive and unnecessary. The audit also



It is requested that within 45 days you advise this office of any actions or decisions taken in response to these recommendations. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Catherine Leahy Scott Inspector General