



# Ohio Chinese American Association

## For Immediate Release

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Contact: Vincent Wang at  
765-409-2585 or [vincent.wang@ohiocaa.org](mailto:vincent.wang@ohiocaa.org)

### **OCAA Applauds MSPB Judge Decision in Favor of Sherry Chen, Urges the DOC to Comply and Work with Inspector General to Investigate Mishandling and Racial Bias**

Sherry Chen was an award winning scientist at the National Weather Service in Wilmington, Ohio and her work was used to predict floods and [avoid loss of lives and property damage](#) when she was wrongfully arrested and accused of espionage in 2014. Her life was turned upside down, only to see all charges against her dropped a week before trial in 2015, and yet her job terminated by the Department of Commerce (DOC) in 2016 for the same wrongful accusations.

Sherry Chen stood up against the injustice and filed an appeal with the U.S. Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) against the DOC, for wrongful termination, race discrimination and retaliation. In March 2017, the MSPB held a two-day hearing of her case in Cincinnati. Ohio Chinese American Association (OCAA) organized a “Stand with Sherry Chen” rally outside the courthouse with many from across the country standing in the freezing weather to support Ms. Chen.

On April 23, 2018, Chief Administrative Judge Michele Schroeder of the MSPB released a 130-page decision, ruling that the DOC did not have cause to fire Sherry Chen and ordered the agency to (1) reinstate her employment at the National Weather Service, and (2) pay her back pay plus benefits.

We applaud the MSPB and Judge Schroeder for reviewing the case thoroughly and making the right decision in favor of Sherry Chen and rejecting the DOC’s allegations against her that arose from its scurrilous claim. We commend Sherry Chen’s courage and tenacity in pursuing justice and congratulate her on her victory.

This is a significant milestone for Sherry Chen, for the Asian American community, and for the nation as whole, in our quest for equal justice for all people regardless of their race, color and national origin. It sends a strong message to those who have a tendency to stereotype, target and/or discriminate Asian Americans and other minorities - we all embrace the American values and contribute to the American society, and we have the will and capacity as a community to defend our rights as an equal citizen in this country.

We urge the DOC to accept the MSPB’s well-reasoned decision and immediately comply with it, allowing Sherry Chen to return to the work that she loves and excels in, and benefits our nation. We also call on the DOC to work with its Inspector General to conduct a full investigation into the handling of Sherry’s case, for racial bias, abuse of power, violation of due process, and lack of efficiency.

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*The Ohio Chinese American Association (OCAA) is a nonprofit organization with the missions to unite Chinese Americans, raise awareness of the rights and obligations as an American citizen, and promote American values and assimilation to the American society. More information can be found at its website [ohiocaa.org](http://ohiocaa.org).*