



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
City of Chicago

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Inspector General

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October 25, 2011

Rosemary Krimbel
Commissioner
Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection
City Hall, Room 805
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Taxi Regulations

Dear Commissioner Krimbel:

I read with interest media reports regarding your efforts to update taxicab regulations. Those reports, which note taxicab regulations have not been updated in 20 years, indicate Business Affairs and Consumer Protection's (BACP) examination of the existing taxicab fare structure, and point out Alderman Burke's suggestion of an increase to the fare surcharge, an idea he raised during last year's budget considerations.

I am writing to bring your attention to an October 2010 IGO report recommending that taxicabs be required to implement a GPS system to track the movement of on-duty taxicabs. The recommendations followed the death of a City resident, caused by a hit-and-run incident, allegedly involving a taxicab. For your convenience, I have included a copy of that recommendation and the responses to the report received from BACP, the Chicago Police Department, and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

The report sets forth the potential advantages of having a GPS system in each taxicab. These include public safety benefits, enhanced customer service, and improvements to the City's transportation policy.

We continue to believe that the recommendations made in our report will benefit all City residents, at minimal cost to the taxicab industry. However, to assist taxicab owners and operators pay for the cost of installing GPS in the City's taxicabs, we believe that the optimal time for the City to mandate GPS in taxicabs is when the City next raises taxicab fares.

If you have not already done so, we hope that you will take the time to review our recommendations. We are ready to work with you should you have any questions about our recommendations, or if you require further information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph M. Ferguson
Inspector General
City of Chicago

CC:

Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Alderman Ed Burke

Alderman Margaret Laurino

Corporation Counsel Stephen Patton

Chief of Staff Theresa Mintle

Superintendent of Police Garry McCarthy

OEMC Executive Director Gary Schenkel

Chief Information Officer Jason DeHaan