



Joseph M. Ferguson  
Inspector General

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL *City of Chicago*

740 N. Sedgwick Street, Suite 200  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
Telephone: (773) 478-7799  
Fax: (773) 478-3949

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CONTACT: Rachel Leven, (773) 478-0534

### **Statement from Inspector General Ferguson on RedFlex Settlement**

The finalization of the City's settlement with RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc. and Redflex Holdings, Ltd. for \$20 million in restitution and compensatory damages marks the close of a four year effort by OIG investigators and attorneys to ensure justice for the Chicago tax-payers.

OIG began investigating in 2012, soon after the Chicago Tribune revealed the existence of an internal Redflex whistleblower memo. Our investigators quickly developed critical evidence of criminal activity beyond what was reported by the Tribune, which we brought to the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. OIG continued to conduct numerous in-person interviews, surveillances, and extensive forensic analysis of financial records. OIG's efforts helped to expose a major bribery scheme, and contributed to two guilty pleas, and the conviction and 10 year term of imprisonment of a City employee who abused his position of power for gross personal benefit. U.S. v. John Bills quickly became one of the most significant bribery cases in the City of Chicago's recent history.

By some accounts Chicago continues to have the nation's largest red-light camera network. The size of the network and the history of misconduct, led OIG's Audit and Program Review section to examine program management of the system, while our investigators continued to separately pursue the criminal investigation.

This case serves as a reminder that there will always be individuals willing to abuse the public trust for personal gain. I believe that we are changing the culture in City government, whereby transparency and accountability are becoming more the norm. As part of promoting that paradigm, it is incumbent on every Chicago resident, taxpayer, and City employee to stay vigilant and to report their concerns to OIG whether they are about corruption and misconduct or inefficiency and mismanagement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Ferguson".

Joseph M. Ferguson  
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