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Inspector General Releases Review on Efficiency of Motor Truck Driver Job Duties

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (IGO) today released a review of the efficiency of the City's use of Motor Truck Drivers (MTDs).

The report finds that approximately 200 MTD positions are unnecessary to regular City operations and the City is required to continue using them only because of an overly restrictive Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Eliminating these positions would save the City approximately \$18 million this year.

"This report illustrates the hazards of entering into long-term CBAs in uncertain economic times with severe constraints on managerial rights and flexibility," said Inspector General Joe Ferguson. "While the City and the union may each have legitimate gripes about the current CBA, it is Chicago taxpayers who are getting the short end of the stick here. While we did find that the job duties of many City MTDs are used productively; that alone doesn't justify nearly \$18 million in waste annually."

The report includes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor for future CBAs that would better enable the City to both efficiently deliver services to residents and respond to uncertain fiscal situations. These include:

- The City Council should consider an ordinance limiting CBAs to four years, tracking the term of the Mayor and City Council.
- Before ratifying a CBA, the City Council should require a comprehensive analysis of a CBA's impact on the delivery of City services, staffing requirements, and management rights.

Also, in order to address the inefficient use of MTDs, the IGO recommends that the City examine amending the current CBA to include two additional provisions.

- First, the IGO recommends a reopener clause to allow for the renegotiation of the CBA based on the financial condition of the City.
- Second, the IGO recommends that a "Four Corners" provision be added to ensure that all the terms of the agreement between the union and the City be placed within the text of the CBA. This means one comprehensive document should be presented and acted on in

its entirety by the City Council, and no “side letters” or “Memoranda of Understanding” not expressly incorporated into the CBA would govern the employment relationship. The CBA should also refrain from restrictive references to “unit work” or “traditional work” without allowing the City the ability to reorganize services based on technological change or operational need.

The full review can be found [online](#) at the IGO website: www.chicagoinspectorgeneral.org. Visit the IGO’s new [Open Chicago](#) webpage to read the CBAs in their entirety. Follow the IGO on Twitter at [ChicagoIGO](#) for the latest information on how the IGO continues to fight waste, fraud, abuse, and inefficiency in Chicago government.

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