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June 24, 2016

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor
City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Significant Activity Report

Mayor Emanuel:

Today, June 24, 2016, Brent Watson, a City of Chicago firefighter, was arraigned on criminal charges including two counts of theft (720 ILCS 5/16-1(a)) and one count each of burglary and wire fraud (720 ILCS 5/19-1(a) and 720 ILCS 5/17-24(b)). *State of Illinois v. Brent Watson* 16-CR-09145-01 (Cir. Ct. of Cook County, Ill.).

The indictment alleges that Watson and his wife, Wendy Watson, accessed a foreclosed unit in their condo building without the permission or authority of the owner. The couple subsequently rented the units out to new tenants, representing themselves as the owners of the properties and collecting monthly rent payments on the units. Because Watson had represented himself as a firefighter to the tenants, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) partnered with the Cook County State's Attorney in the investigation, bringing this matter before the Grand Jury.

Watson is scheduled to appear before Honorable Alfredo Maldonado on July 6th.

Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to Rachel Leven, OIG Public Communications Coordinator, at (773) 478-0534.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Ferguson
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