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Mayor

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Eddie T. Johnson
Superintendent of Police

September 12, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Joseph M. Ferguson
Inspector General
City of Chicago Office of Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60654
jferguson@igchicago.org

Re: CPD's Response to OIG Advisory Concerning Preferential Parking

Dear Inspector General Ferguson:

Please see below the Chicago Police Department's ("CPD") response to the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General's ("OIG") *Advisory Concerning Chicago Police Department Preferential Parking*.

The Chicago Police Department strives to ensure that all of its facilities, assets, and real property – including its district parking lots – are used in accordance with the overall mission and public safety goals of the Department. For the management and operations of district stations and accompanying property, CPD grants deference to each District Commander and his or her designated command staff. Recognizing that each of CPD's 22 police districts has unique public safety challenges and community needs, district command staff are best positioned to utilize limited resources and manage the district property in alignment with localized crime and public safety strategies.

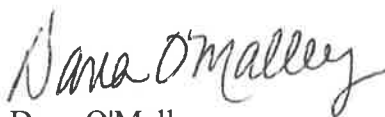
For pedestrian travel, CPD's 1st District parking lot sits approximately one mile from Soldier Field. Rather than assign sworn personnel to patrol and secure the 1st District parking lot a full mile from the events at Soldier Field, the 1st District Commander determined that CPD's district resources are better allocated to ensure the safety of the tens of thousands of individuals at and around Soldier Field and throughout the 1st District during football games and events. The 1st District Commander has communicated to CPD personnel that the 1st District parking lot is "reserved for on-duty police officers and members of the Department working or conducting business in the building. Off-duty and non-department members are not to park in the lot for personal reasons." See Reference #250173. However, the 1st District Commander has acknowledged to the OIG that without an assigned officer to patrol the parking lot, individuals are able to park undetected in the unsecured district parking lot. These individuals may include both off-duty CPD personnel and members of the public. Even acknowledging that unauthorized individuals may be using the 1st District parking lot, the 1st District Commander does not think it would be a beneficial use of resources to use sworn personnel to patrol the parking lot given the myriad of continuous events and activities throughout the 1st District that requires a public safety presence, particularly during games and events at Soldier Field.

CPD's 19th District parking lot is an approximate 0.2 mile walk to Wrigley Field. During the time OIG conducted its investigation into the 19th District parking facilities, the 19th District Commander had set up a system to allow off-duty officers to park in extra spots that were available and not being used by on-duty personnel. Due to the extremely close vicinity to Wrigley Field, the 19th District Commander did assign a bike unit to monitor the area around the parking lot during games. In addition to establishing a public safety presence, the assigned officer made best efforts to ensure that only CPD members were using the parking lot during games at Wrigley Field. The 19th District Commander required each CPD member using the parking lot to document his or her name. Due to the fact that sworn members would be unable to take their firearms into Wrigley Field, the Commander's goal was to provide off-duty members attending Wrigley Field with the ability to keep their firearms safely stowed in a monitored parking lot. By keeping their information on hand, the Commander had the ability to contact them in the event of an emergency or other incident, and the off-duty members could quickly and safely retrieve their firearms from the lot. In short, the 19th District had the additional spots available, and the Commander felt additional assurance knowing that extra sworn manpower was nearby in the event that they were needed.

Finally, as of November 2018, after communications with the First District Commander, CPD's assigned members at City Hall have discontinued parking at Court Place and LaSalle Street. The City Hall officers have retrieved the parking placards that were previously used to allow cars to use the Court Place alley to park, and no longer honor them as valid. The officers assigned to City Hall now prohibit CPD personnel and non-CPD members from using the lot. CPD members who are assigned to City Hall now have the option of using the 1st District Parking lot, and using public transportation from the district station to get to and from City Hall. The prohibition from parking personal cars at Court Place has been communicated to officers assigned to City Hall, both from the enforcement and personal use perspectives.

Thank you for your communication on this matter. Please reach out to the Office of Legal Affairs with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Dana O'Malley
General Counsel
Office of the Superintendent
Chicago Police Department