



CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF ASSETS, INFORMATION & SERVICES

May 27, 2021

Joseph M. Ferguson  
Inspector General  
City of Chicago  
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 200  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Inspector General Ferguson,

In response to your Advisory on the Inventory and Management of Municipal License Plates, dated April 1, 2021, I respectfully submit the following:

Over the course of several weeks last year, Department of Assets, Information and Services (AIS) personnel met with your Investigators and provided all requested documents and information pertaining to license plate management. During these meetings, it was mutually agreed that large-scale municipal license plate management is a challenging endeavor. With a managed fleet well in excess of 10,000 vehicles, many of which are acquired and controlled by outside agencies, there are certain instances regarding license plate management which are outside the control of AIS.

Compounding this issue is the closure several years ago of the Illinois Secretary of State's (IL SoS) Chicago municipal license plate office, thereby necessitating that all transactions occur by mail through the Springfield office. With the large volume of transactions the City requires, this has resulted in logistical issues and delays for AIS, and we look forward to working with the IL SoS to find processes that enable us to proactively manage our municipal plate operation.

We welcome the opportunity to update our records to more closely match the IL SoS database. All of the recommendations in your advisory will likely move us in the direction of increased accuracy, and we look forward to implementing them.

Of special concern to AIS is the statement in your advisory that "6,955 license plates exist in AIS' database but do not exist in IL SoS' database". As IL SoS is the sole issuer of license plates in the state, this issue requires immediate investigation and rectification.

In addition to the joint effort with IL SoS, AIS will endeavor to audit the existing license plate inventory by implementing a campaign to check vehicle license plates against M5 records when units come in for service, and to correct discrepancies. We will report our findings to your office and to the IL SoS.

We will work with your office to identify the appropriate IL SoS personnel with whom to engage on this project, and we will provide a status summary by year's end.

I am hopeful that this response adequately conveys the intent of AIS to take all necessary actions to rectify the issues with our license plate inventory and database. If you have any questions, or if you need more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Reynolds  
Commissioner  
City of Chicago  
Department of Assets, Information & Services (AIS)