

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, #16-503
Chicago, IL 60601**

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call

Secretary of State Jesse White called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and informed the members that minutes for the meeting would be electronically recorded. Micah Miller asked for members of the Council to recognize their designees during the roll call, if one would be serving in their place at future council meetings. The following members were present:

Secretary of State Jesse White
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (designee)
Eddie Johnson, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department
Sgt. Keith Blair, Chicago Police Department (designee)
Leo Schmitz, Director, Illinois State Police
Steven Lyddon, ISP (designee)
Steven Block (designee for Cook County State's Attorney)
Brian Fengel, Chief, Bartonville Police Department
Jerry Brady, Peoria County State's Attorney
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance
Matt Gall, Country Financial
Heather Drake, the Auto Club Group
Steve Kelly (designee for Dana Popish, Allstate Insurance)

2. Introductions

Having recognized that a quorum was present, Secretary White thanked the members for attending and expressed his gratitude for their service to combating motor vehicle thefts. The members took a few minutes to go around the room and introduce themselves and explain their background experience and qualifications.

3. Recognition of Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Secretary White mentioned that the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council previously fell under the authority of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), however, as of 2018 it was restructured and renamed to the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention & Insurance

Verification Council, and it now falls under the authority of the Secretary of State's office. He recognized the years of service that ICJIA provided to the Council and asked for Greg Stevens, previous Program Director, to come forward and address the Council.

Mr. Stevens recognized his colleagues Sharyn Adams and Nancy Determann, who assisted him in managing the prior Council and was presented with a honorary license plate "MVTPC" as a token of appreciation for his service. Secretary White called for a 5 minute recess so that members could wish Mr. Stevens and his staff well.

5. Organizational briefings

At 10:25 a.m., Chairman Piazza called the meeting to order. He said that he was looking forward to the feedback from the Council and developing relationships with the insurance community. He then indicated that his staff would go through a series of briefings to the Council members and asked Mr. Miller to begin his housekeeping briefing.

- **Housekeeping:** Mr. Miller introduced himself and said that he would be the acting Program Manager for the Council. He mentioned that he would help formulate the agendas, secure the meeting locations, record and draft minutes, and asked for the Council members to use him as a point of contact for scheduling meeting dates, distribution of material, or any content related to the new MVTPIV Council website which was under development. He also asked for Council members to visit the Attorney General's website and take Open Meetings Act training, and stressed the importance of members adhering to the Open Meetings Act.
- **Legal:** Amy Williams introduced herself and said that she was an attorney with the Secretary of State's office and would be the Legal Assistant to the Council. She asked for member to contact her with any questions regarding Public Act 100-0373, the Administrative Rules or Council by-laws moving forward. Ms. Williams stated that the Administrative Rules would be using much of the same language that ICJIA used and a draft would soon be available for review so that it could be voted upon at the next meeting.

She briefly discussed that the Council would continue to use the 5-member Grant Review Committee structure and that anyone wishing to serve on the committee should contact Mr. Miller. She also stressed the Secretary of State's dedication to running smooth and efficient meetings to ensure that grants are appropriately awarded in 2019.

Ms. Williams mentioned that the Secretary of State would soon be issuing a Request For Proposal (RFP) related to a new Electronic Insurance Verification system, which will help to more efficiently verify the insurance status of registered vehicles in Illinois. She noted that Public Act 100-0373 allowed for funds to be used to help develop and maintain this system.

- **Financial:** Amanda Trimmer introduced herself and said that she was the Chief Deputy Director of the Secretary of State's Budget Department and wanted to provide a status on the MVTPIV Trust Fund. She anticipated a \$16.3 million starting balance as of July 1, 2018 and said that the enabling legislation included specific language that will prevent fund transfers or sweeps to the General Revenue Fund. She also mentioned that the Secretary of State's office was in the process of hiring a Grant Administrator and fiscal support staff and anticipated grants being awarded in 2019.

Ms. Trimmer reminded the Council of language in Public Act 100-0373, which allowed for 10% of MVTPIV Trust Funds to be used for the Secretary of State's administrative expenses. Additionally there would be a first year allowance of up to 75% of the funds for the implementation of an Electronic Insurance Verification system, and then up to 50% to be used for maintenance in following years. She anticipated \$3.6 million reliably being available for grants in the coming years based upon the amount that the MVTPIV Trust Fund has historically generated.

Mr. Johnson asked if funds for the Electronic Insurance Verification system could be used from the current MVTPIV Trust Fund balance. Ms. Trimmer acknowledged that the funding would in fact come from the funds that were already collected.

6. Multi-year strategy and vision forward

Chairman Piazza said that the Council would discuss the 2016-2019 multi-year strategy, which was located in the member's binders. He then asked if any members of the Council wanted to comment on the strategy that he been previously developed. Chief Fengel said that he was eager to see the funding restored for its intended purposes. Mr. Miller mentioned that the current strategy targeted the top 10 counties in Illinois with the highest volume of auto thefts, and then funneled resources in those directions. He also mentioned the rise in technology and title fraud which has allowed auto theft to move from simple "smash and grab" crimes to more of a white-collar crime, which could present challenges in developing a new strategy for 2020 and beyond.

Mr. Johnson asked if it is the intent of the Council to try and implement the 2016-2019 multi-year strategy. Chairman Piazza said that this would be a good time to consider a new strategy and he would welcome input from the insurance representatives. Mr. Johnson asked if grant money would be offered to regional task forces again and if any are still operational. Mr. Dwayne Killian, representing the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force, addressed the Council and said that they were the only remaining task force in the state of Illinois. Chairman Piazza asked for clarification on their jurisdiction. Mr. Killian said that they had jurisdiction through the participating agencies which included Kankakee County and the cities of Kankakee, Romeoville and Joliet. Chief Fengel said that the Council had noticed increased auto theft activity in the Quad Cities region, Springfield and Champaign. Mr. Stevens concurred and also noted that the Council continued to notice a decline in auto thefts even when the regional task forces lost funding, however it was not as sharp of a decline as when they were operational.

Steven Block noted that the Cook County State's Attorney's office had been the recipient of a grant that allowed them to dedicate prosecutors to an auto theft unit. He also stated that since they lost funding, those prosecutors were reassigned, however their office would welcome the opportunity to use grant funds to again dedicate prosecutors to working auto theft cases. Chairman Piazza concurred and noted that as auto theft becomes more complicated, it is vital to be able to see a long term case all the way through to the end.

Matt Gall asked if the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force lost members when their funding was swept. Mr. Killian said that they used to have 12 members that spanned the three counties of Will, Grundy and Kankakee, but some of the officers were pulled back due to the lack of funding. He said they now have 2 from Kankakee County, 1 from the City of Kankakee, 1 from Joliet and 1 from Romeoville.

Mr. Johnson asked how soon the Council would be able to start awarding grants to restore funding for these operations. Ms. Williams said that they were anticipating January 2019 as the earliest date, though the Council would most likely be able to put grant applications out for public viewing much earlier once the proper votes are taken by Council members. Ms. Trimmer also noted the office does not have access to the MVTPIV Trust Fund until July 1, 2018. Mr. Killian said that they have gone two and a half years with no funds and would prefer to see funding restored for their task force. Chairman Piazza asked how they are sustaining operations currently. Mr. Killian said that they are using asset forfeitures to get by.

Mr. Miller reminded the Council members that it was up to them to decide how to best utilize the MVTPIV Trust Funds and that these sorts of discussions would most likely become ongoing discussions throughout the year.

7. Public Comments

Chairman Piazza asked for any other comments from the public. Hearing none, he thanked everyone for their time.

8. Next meeting date

Mr. Miller informed the members that, per the statute, the MVTPIV Council should meet 4 times each year and also reminded them that future business of the Council would be to adopt by-laws and to consider 5 members to also serve on the Grant Review Committee. He asked for any members who would be interested to contact him. The members tentatively agreed to try and meet in Springfield in the month of July.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.