



October 4, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
The Capitol, Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

Re. Office of the State Comptroller Audit Report – 2022-M-2

Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Office of the State Comptroller's ("OSC") above-referenced final audit report relating to Administration and Oversight of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevent Program. On behalf of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and pursuant to Executive Law §170, I write to provide DCJS' corrective action and updates to OSC's recommendations detailed in the final audit report. For ease of review, we have listed OSC's recommendations followed by our corrective action:

***Take steps to ensure compliance with governance-related requirements under Article 36-A by:***

- ***Requesting appointment of Board members to meet the Law's number and composition requirements;***
- ***Convening at least the four required Board meetings each year; and***
- ***Issuing the MVTIF Annual Report annually by February 15.***

***Issue an RFP, in accordance with the Plan and with MVTIF Board approval, that results in awarding funding to entities within the counties that – using the most recent available data – have the highest incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.***

These program governance issues continue because DCJS has been unsuccessful in filling the Board which has prevented the Board from holding the required number of meetings. There is currently one member in the process of being appointed. However, two members recently left the Board. Given the difficulties of recruiting and retaining members, DCJS is pursuing legislative remedies to ensure that funding and the issuance of an RFP are not contingent on the Board and to ensure the Board is appropriately positioned to give guidance on these important topics.

Issuing the annual report by February 15 is not possible given the delays in obtaining the required information from grantees.

It is important to note that, despite these concerns, funding has continued to be distributed and recent data shows that incidents of motor vehicle theft have decreased significantly.

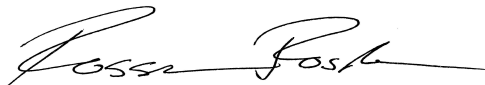
**Enhance assurance that grantee claims for reimbursement are for expenses that are Program-related, accurate, supported by time and effort tracking systems required under the contract, and adequately approved.**

Grantees continue to be made aware of the requirement to maintain supporting documentation for reimbursed expenses through contract language, to sign attestations when submitting claims for reimbursement, and to cooperate with monitoring and audits. The DCJS Office of Audit Services and Compliance is currently performing an audit of one of the grantees visited by OSC's team where issues were identified to determine if they have enhanced their process for maintaining documentation supporting reimbursed expenses.

**Take action to reduce the risk of administrative overcharges to the Program.**

Staff were reminded of the importance of accurately coding expenses for proper accounting.

Sincerely,



Rossana Rosado  
Commissioner

cc: Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli, Comptroller, State of New York  
Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate President Pro Tem and Majority Leader  
Honorable Robert G. Ort, Senate Minority Leader  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senate Chair, Finance Committee  
Honorable Thomas F. O'Mara, NYS Ranking Minority Member, Senate Finance Committee  
Honorable Carl E. Heastie, NYS Assembly Speaker  
Honorable Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, NYS Assembly Majority Leader  
Honorable William A. Barclay, NYS Assembly Minority Leader  
Honorable Helene F. Weinstein, NYS Assembly Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Honorable Edward P. Ra, NYS Ranking Minority Member, Assembly Ways and Means Committee