



Written Input Sought for the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council's Statewide Funding Strategy

Due date: April 9, 2007

Written comment is being sought on the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council's statewide motor vehicle theft prevention strategy and the programs it supports. As in past years, this input will be used to help identify and clarify issues or problem areas, effective approaches, needed legislative or regulatory remedies or any other information relevant to the vehicle theft problem in this State. This information may be the subject of special discussion panels that will appear before the Council on May 18, 2007. The written input and panel process will culminate in the development of a revised statewide strategy for 2008 - 2011. You are invited to submit written comments.

Background

In 1990, the Illinois General Assembly took action against steadily rising auto theft rates by passing the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act - legislation crafted by an association of law enforcement and insurance industry officials called the Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee.

The Act, which took effect on January 1, 1991, established the eleven-member Council and gave it the responsibility for managing a unique cooperative venture between business and government to curb motor vehicle theft in Illinois.

The Act requires all insurance companies licensed to write private passenger motor vehicle physical damage coverages in Illinois to pay annually into a special trust fund an amount equal to \$1.00 for each earned car year of exposure for physical damage insurance coverage (comprehensive coverage) during the previous calendar year. About \$5.6 million is collected each year.

Once every four years the Council adopts a statewide motor vehicle theft prevention strategy that is derived from public input and data analyses. The strategy describes the nature and extent of the motor vehicle theft problem in Illinois, areas of greatest need, problems to be addressed, and eligible programs the Council should support. The Council grants awards to programs that are consistent with the statewide strategy.

Legislation has been introduced that would extend the Act an additional four years - through January 1, 2012.

Written Comments

A critical component of this year's deliberations will revolve around the fact that as program costs continue to increase, the amount of funding available for them remains constant.

With this in mind, written comment is being sought on the strategy and the programs it supports. This input will be used to identify issues and/or problem areas and will be the subject of Council discussions later this year during the development of the 2008 – 2011 Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council's Statewide Funding Strategy.

Note: This is not a request for funding proposals. Please do not submit a grant application.

Please address the following issues in distinct sections of your comments:

Problem statement - The major problem(s) facing you or your agency with respect to motor vehicle theft in Illinois.

Data - Data that documents the nature and extent of the problem(s) identified.

Resources - The resources currently available to address the problem(s); identification of current funding sources and availability of matching funds; and an identification of existing services.

Approach - An explanation of why a particular approach to the problem(s) shows more promise than other approaches. Include a discussion of recent developments in law enforcement or other areas that affect efforts to combat motor vehicle theft.

Relation to Statewide Strategy - A discussion of the relation of the problem(s), resources, and approach identified to the Council's statewide motor vehicle theft prevention strategy.

Current Focus of Statewide Strategy

The current statewide motor vehicle theft prevention strategy is aimed at addressing the following problems:

1. The collection, analysis, accuracy, completeness and sharing of vehicle theft statistical data and criminal intelligence.
2. The traditionally fragmented and uncoordinated response of the criminal justice system to the motor vehicle theft problem.
3. Training of law enforcement, prosecutorial agencies, and others combating vehicle theft.

4. Limited law enforcement resources.
5. Motor vehicle theft enterprises in some areas of the State involve dealers of vehicles, parts, and scrap.
6. Insurance fraud.
7. The complexity of criminal prosecutions.
8. Strategies to address juvenile and habitual offenders.
9. The lack of public awareness of motor vehicle theft and the public's involvement in reduction and prevention efforts.

Geographic areas of greatest need

The Council focuses its support with programs in seven geographical areas of the state; these areas show the greatest need in terms of the nature and extent of the motor vehicle theft problem. These areas are Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, and the metropolitan areas of Chicago, East St. Louis, Joliet, Rockford, Peoria, and Naperville.

Eligible program areas for funding

Law enforcement - multi-jurisdictional task forces, special investigative programs, and specialized prosecution units.

The infrastructure supporting law enforcement efforts - the collection, analysis, and sharing of criminal intelligence information regarding motor vehicle theft; the development and implementation of training programs for law enforcement officers; training for state's attorneys and the judiciary; the development and implementation of training programs dealing with record keeping and theft prevention procedures aimed at vehicle related businesses and license-holders including salvage yards, rebuilders, recyclers, scrap processors, new and used car dealerships; and, building additional alliances with agencies and organizations involved in fighting vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

Public awareness - public education and prevention efforts which: inform owners about the financial and social consequences of motor vehicle theft; suggest methods for preventing such thefts; encourage the general public to report motor vehicle theft and related crimes; and highlight the work of task forces, special investigative activities and other efforts funded by the Council.

Evaluation and research - assessments of the administration and operation of funded programs as well

as their impact on the motor vehicle theft problem; and, research supporting the identification and implementation of strategies for combating vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

Innovative programs - to encourage the development and implementation of creative and innovative approaches to respond to the motor vehicle theft problem in Illinois.

The focus of current programs

Since March of 1992 (when the first grant awards were made), the Council has awarded funds to programs designed to combat motor vehicle theft in Illinois. The programs include:

- multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces around the State that include special prosecutors;
- a statewide auditing program focusing on vehicle and parts-related businesses, and insurance pools throughout Illinois;
- a statewide law enforcement training program;
- a statewide specialized crime analysis and intelligence gathering clearinghouse; and,
- the coordination of law enforcement agencies on the federal, state and local levels by Council funded task force units.

How trust funds are used

Trust funds have mainly been used to fund law enforcement personnel. In 2006, a total of 110 persons were supported by the Council's grant funded programs.

These personnel include:

- 76 **investigators and auditors** who perform sworn and civilian investigative functions;
- 14 **assistant state's attorneys** prosecuting motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases;
- 11 **support personnel** including data input operators, clerical support, and others; and,
- 9 **technical and professional positions** including intelligence analysts, social workers, intake specialist and law clerks.

Accomplishments of funded programs

Over the past 15 years Council-funded multi-jurisdictional task forces have conducted over 25,717 investigations. The work of the Council-funded task

forces has resulted in approximately 12,632 arrests and 5,215 convictions. The task forces recovered about 29,207 vehicles, resulting in an estimated recovery value of \$180 million.

The Objectives of the Statewide Strategy

The objectives of the statewide strategy are:

1. To reduce the number of motor vehicles stolen in the State;
2. To increase the number of stolen motor vehicles recovered;
3. To increase the percentage of offenses for violations of motor vehicle theft laws, which result in arrests;
4. To increase the percentage of offenses for violations of motor vehicle theft laws which result in criminal prosecutions;
5. To increase the percentage of offenses for violations of motor vehicle theft laws which result in convictions and jail or prison sentences; and
6. To reduce the recidivism of motor vehicle theft offenders.

Invitation to provide verbal input

Interested parties are invited to provide verbal input at the May 18, 2003 Council meeting in Springfield, IL. The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am Central time.

Verbal input will be limited to five minutes per person.

Submit written comments to:

Mr. Greg Stevens, Program Director
Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council
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Or, by email at: cja.imvtpc@Illinois.gov

For further information, contact the Council at (312) 793-8550 (TDD: 312-793-4170).

Due Date: April 9, 2007