

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Inspection Fee

Public Safety Committee Presentation

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Commander Dana Hitzman

Lieutenant Tolan Harding

Proposal

- The Houston Police Department is proposing a new fee (\$40) to the City of Houston fee schedule
- Revenue would be retained by the Houston Auto Crime Task Force grant as cost recovery for personnel and operation expenditures

Texas DMV Required VIN Inspection

For Titling and Registration purposes, only applies to vehicles that :

- No record in TxDMV database or NMVTIS*
Never registered in Texas, unable to locate records from out of state
- Bonded title required (title insurance)
Lost title, original owner deceased, cannot contact original owner Bill of Sale
- Imported from outside U.S.
Never originally intended for US, rare, specialty or collector cars
- Purchased out of state
Being registered for first time, no prior state records or NMVTIS

*National Motor Vehicle Title Information System

Texas DMV Required VIN Inspection (cont'd)

For Titling and Registration purposes, only applies to vehicles that

- Needs assigned or re-assigned VIN
Vehicle had VINs removed, obliterated, damaged
- Homemade vehicle/trailer
Commonly trailers, custom built vehicle from parts
- Equipment/Machinery needing license plate
Road graders, street sweepers, farm equipment
- As required by Texas DMV
Suspicious paperwork, rebuilt salvage, legal restraint by DMV
- Overall applies to very few titling transactions,
- HPD does approximately 1400 inspections/year.
- Majority of title/registration transactions DO NOT require a VIN Inspection.

Purpose of VIN Inspections

Tx DMV Form VTR 68-A “Law Enforcement Identification Number Inspection”

- Confirm the identity of a vehicle
- Identify and recover stolen vehicles (VIN swaps)
- Conducted by a trained law enforcement officer
- Assigned to an auto theft unit/MVCPA Task Force

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA)

- Under the Tx DMV umbrella
- Funds Houston Auto Crimes Task Force

VIN Inspection Logistics

Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 501

“may impose a fee of not more than \$40 for the inspection.”

- HACTF – Auto Theft Grant Unit - MVCPA funded
- Specialized training, equipment and knowledge
- 15 minutes to several hours
- 1300 Dart, HPD Vehicle Impound Lot
- Every Monday, except Holidays, 0800
- 60 appointments per day
- Booked 3 months in advance
- Approximately 1,300 inspections per year
- MVCPA supports charging the fee

VIN Inspection Logistics (cont'd)

How is fee assessed?

- Prior to the actual start of the physical inspection
- By appointment only. VIN Inspections are done on Mondays only, from 8 am to 5pm at 1300 Dart, Houston, TX 77002.
- Appointments are made online and available 90 days in advance at:
https://www.houstontx.gov/police/auto_theft/pdfs/Information-Letter-for-68A.pdf
- Fees will be collected in person via credit or debit card.
- Cash is not accepted.
- For information, please call HPD Auto Theft Division at 713.308.3500
- Required items for inspections: Vehicle, DL/Identification, Insurance, Safety Inspection, proof of purchase/Bill of Sale, Title

MVCPA Grant Governance

Grantee (Department) compliance with statutes, rules, standards, and guidelines

- Texas Grant Management Standards (“TxGMS”)
- Texas Revised Civil Statutes, art. 4413(37)
- Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Part 3, Chapter 57
- Request for Applications
- MVCPA Grant Manual
- Official Resolution By Governing Authority Seeking Grant Funding
- Grant Award Letter
- Grantee Acceptance Notice
- Statement of Grant Award and Addendum

Legal Justification for Program Income

Texas Grant Management Standards, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Program income:

- 1) income from fees for services performed
- 2) gross income received by the grantee directly generated by a grant supported activity

MVCPA Administrative Grant Manual, Section 3.3.7

Program Income:

“generated program income” includes “charges or fees received using grant funded personnel (VIN Inspections) or equipment.”

May be used for:

- Overtime
- Equipment
- Offset program costs/funding requests

Items of Note

- Inspections initiated by law enforcement will result in *no charges* to theft victims
- Overall applies to very few titling transactions, HPD does approximately 1400 inspections/year.
- Majority of title/registration transactions DO NOT require a VIN Inspection.
- Fee Study confirmed \$40 fee
- No cash transactions; credit card payments only