

From: Roqueta, Robert  
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 6:15 PM  
To: Martin, David; DiCostanzo, Monica  
Cc: Graziosi, Anzelmo; Morson, Eric  
Subject: A look at out-of-state and-out-of-town plates and loss of tax revenue to Stamford  
Attachments: STAMFORD NON CITY REGISTERED LICENSE PLATES LOSS OF TAX REVENUE.pptx

Greetings Mayor Martin and Fiscal Chairwoman DiCostanzo,

Attached is a brief PowerPoint I put together that highlights some of the issues and proposed solutions to loss revenue as result of auto property tax evasion.

Not included in this presentation (but needs to be evaluated) is insurance liability costs and other related coverage costs as a result of tax evasion that may also impact our constituents.

I am hoping to find out if inviting the management team from Municipal Tax Services, LLC would be something that the Fiscal Committee would allow. I feel getting the information from the company that is currently contracted by other Connecticut municipalities would help us get closer to our end goal which would be to reclaim the money that has been lost to perpetual tax evasion. It is my personal belief that this problem is grossly overlooked in Stamford.

We are a border city to N.Y. In my own apartment complex alone (obviously anecdotal), at least 20% of the cars here are carrying out of state plates.

In addition to viewing the PPT., I urge you to click through and read the links in the "references" page of the presentation.

On behalf of myself and my co-sponsors Reps. Morson & Graziosi  
We thank you for your time,

Robert Roqueta  
Board of Representatives  
District 4  
203-424-7205



# STAMFORD AUTOMOBILE PROPERTY TAX EVASION

ROBERT ROQUETA- DISTRICT 4  
BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

# SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- ▶ “Connecticut municipalities assess motor vehicles for property taxes and tax the vehicles at different rates. Consequently, some vehicle owners who reside in municipalities with higher tax rates try to reduce their tax burden by listing their vehicles in another municipality or another state with a lower tax rate” (OLR RESEARCH REPORT 2010).
- ▶ “the Department of Motor Vehicles does not compare the address listed on an application for vehicle registration with the address listed on the driver's license of the owner to determine whether a vehicle is being registered in the proper municipality. **However, knowingly providing false information on a registration application is a crime.** (OLR RESEARCH REPORT 2010).

# SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- ▶ “The tax applies whether or not the vehicle is registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. It also applies if the vehicle is registered in another state.” (OLR RESEARCH REPORT 2010)
- ▶ According to David Dietsch, the Waterbury assessor and president of the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers, the phenomenon of people registering their vehicle in the improper municipality or out of state is most common in **municipalities with high property tax rates and those located along the state's borders.** (OLR RESEARCH REPORT 2010)

# STATE LAWS (CGS): PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_203.htm#sec\\_12-71](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_203.htm#sec_12-71)
- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_203.htm#sec\\_12-71b](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_203.htm#sec_12-71b)
- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_203.htm#sec\\_12-71c](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_203.htm#sec_12-71c)
- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_204.htm#sec\\_12-126](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_204.htm#sec_12-126)

# STATE LAWS (CGS) : MOTOR VEHICLES

- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_246.htm#sec\\_14-12](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_246.htm#sec_14-12)
- ▶ [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap\\_246.htm#sec\\_14-17a](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/Chap_246.htm#sec_14-17a)

# PROPOSED SOLUTION

- ▶ “The number of vehicles operating within the state makes it difficult for assessors to enforce the above situs rules. Consequently, some municipalities including Bridgeport, Danbury, Hamden, New Haven, Stratford, and Waterbury have retained the firm **Municipal Tax Services** (MTS) to help them identify unregistered vehicles and improperly registered vehicles” (OLR RESEARCH REPORT 2010)
- ▶ The firm sends employees with cameras to identify vehicles that appear to belong to residents of the municipality that are unregistered or are registered in other states. The employee drives around the municipality **using camera technology that automatically detects license plates, reads the license plate number, and compares the number to a property tax database. When an employee sees a vehicle with out-of-state plates or that is unregistered, he or she will use the database to determine whether the vehicle owner is already paying taxes on it. If not, the firm will take photos of the vehicle over a three-month period to determine whether it is being continually parked in the municipality.** The company also has access to another database that can help prove residency based on government-reported mailing addresses and voting registry. **Once residency is established, the municipality will send a letter to the vehicle owner inquiring about it, and request an interview on the subject**

# MUNICIPAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

- ▶ *Welcome to Municipal Tax Services*
- ▶ MTS is a full service outsourcing firm that focuses on assisting municipalities in the reclamation of tax revenues by providing diligent and professional investigative services. Our staff has over 20 combined years of experience in serving Connecticut municipalities in this specific area. You are welcome to browse through our web site and if further information or explanations are needed feel free to contact us at any time.
- ▶ *Our Mission Statement*
- ▶ Our mission is to assist local governments in the expansion of their tax base resulting in the reclamation of tax revenues otherwise unrealized. We are committed to applying state of the art technology, providing unparalleled quality of service and efficiency in tax assessment matters. This is accomplished through the commitment of manpower and resources to conduct specialized investigations relating to the proper assessment of motor vehicles and other personal property.



# MUNICIPAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

- ▶ Municipal Tax Services, LLC is committed to assisting local governments in the reclamation of tax dollars through its diligent and professional investigative efforts. Our process of identifying the potential taxpayer and acquiring the necessary information to pursue assessment of their property undergoes constant refinement. These refinements not only increase the speed at which we function but enhance the degree of accuracy and significantly increase the capacity of information we process in a short period of time.

# MUNICIPAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

- ▶ Our program is designed to assist the assessor and their individual criterion established at the outset and adhered to throughout the contract period unless specifically changed by the assessor. We constantly seek the opinions of assessors and independent counsel as laws pertaining to assessments are enacted or amended. In short, the assessor maintains complete control and is the final authority under which we perform our service.
- ▶ Municipal Tax Services, LLC is fully licensed and insured to perform this specific service. Since we routinely amass and manage information of a proprietary and confidential nature, our company is fully insured above the limits of liability normally requested by municipalities.

Submit

# MUNICIPAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

*Tradition of Excellence*

- ▶ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2010/rpt/2010-R-0060.htm>
- ▶ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/rpt/pdf/2014-R-0285.pdf>
- ▶ <http://municipaltaxservices.com/index.html>
- ▶ <http://www.nytimes.com/1987/05/17/nyregion/new-york-battles-car-license-fraud.html>
- ▶ <http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Car-registration-fraud-probe-continuing-47987.php>
- ▶ <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/02/22/news/state/connecticut-residents-duck-taxes-by-registering-cars-in-maine/>