



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ROOM 107 CITY HALL

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

MIGUEL DEL VALLE
CITY CLERK

For Immediate Release
February 14, 2007

**CONSUMERS BEWARE:
SOME CURRENCY EXCHANGES OVERCHARGING FOR VEHICLE STICKERS**

*City Clerk del Valle to investigate and crack down on abuses when
currency exchanges overcharge customers for vehicle stickers.
Consumers can report violations by calling (312) 744-1528*

In an effort to protect consumers, City Clerk Miguel del Valle today warned about potential overcharging at currency exchanges when purchasing city vehicle stickers. A review of currency exchanges throughout Chicago resulted in wide discrepancy and significant inaccuracies in prices that consumers are charged. Given the violations to city ordinance, Clerk del Valle will continue his investigation into these abuses and complete a comprehensive review of how currency exchanges sell and transfer vehicle stickers.

Del Valle issued his consumer warning at the Armitage-Kedzie Currency Exchange Ltd. located at 3200 W. Armitage Avenue and urged people to call his office if they have been overcharged.

“Consumers should be aware when they purchase their city stickers from currency exchanges that some of these businesses only want to make a quick buck. People shouldn’t need to pay full price for a city sticker when half the year is over. Higher fees or exorbitant service charges are simply against the law,” said Clerk del Valle.

City Ordinance 3-56-050(c), requires the cost of city stickers to be prorated based on when they are purchased throughout the year. Consumers purchasing stickers for small passenger cars between June 1st and November 30th pay the full rate of \$75, and between December 1st and March 31st the cost is reduced by a third to \$50. The Clerk’s Office contract allows vendors to charge a service fee of up to \$5.50 for selling consumers vehicle stickers.

Today, Al Kindle noted how he had been overcharged for his vehicle sticker earlier in the week at the currency exchange located at 3200 W. Armitage; he was charged the full year fee of \$75, instead of the proper \$50.

“It’s important to know the facts when you step up to the counter to purchase a city sticker, because some of these currency exchanges really take advantage of their customers,” Kindle said.

The inaccurate rates that consumers are being charged impacts consumers, while lining the pocket of currency exchanges. The Clerk will revise the annual contract with currency exchanges through United Armor and when renewing the contract, will put in place new provisions to protect consumers from these abuses.

If consumers believe they have been inaccurately charged for their city sticker, they should call (312) 744-1528, and the Clerk’s Office will investigate and help the consumer obtain reimbursement.

###