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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE FOUND GUILTY IN COVER-UP ATTEMPT OF STATE-OWNED VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced a former agent with the Illinois Gaming Board was found guilty of disorderly conduct and ordered to reimburse taxpayers for filing a false police report with the Chicago Police Department after an incident involving his state-owned vehicle.

Christopher Peterson, 50, of Chicago, was found guilty on Tuesday of one count of disorderly conduct, a Class A Misdemeanor. Cook County Circuit Court Judge Stanley Sacks sentenced Peterson to serve two years of probation. Peterson was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$2,000 in restitution to the state of Illinois, as well as complete 60 hours of community service.

“Mr. Peterson violated his responsibility to serve the residents of Illinois with integrity when he misused his state-issued vehicle and then attempted to cover-up an accident,” Raoul said. “Taxpayers should not be left with the bill when individuals attempt to abuse their positions for personal benefit and to avoid accountability for wrongdoing.”

According to Raoul, Peterson notified his supervisor on Jan. 2, 2020 that his state-issued vehicle had been struck while parked on the street near his home. He also filed a report with the Chicago Police Department. Illinois State Police investigators assigned to the Illinois Gaming Board reviewed a memorandum Peterson prepared detailing the vehicle damage and questioned him after noting the evidence conflicted with Peterson’s story.

Peterson amended his statement, and on Jan. 7, presented a revised memo that stated Peterson’s wife had taken the vehicle without his knowledge and struck a median on Dec.31, 2019. Following a thorough investigation by the Division of Internal Investigation, special agents determined that the incident occurred on the evening of Dec. 31, 2019 on Interstate 190 near Rosemont, Illinois.

After being presented with the additional evidence, Peterson admitted to taking the vehicle and striking the median, then submitting false documents to cover up the incident.

Assistant Attorneys General Haley C. Bookhout and Jonas Harger handled the case for Raoul’s Public Integrity Bureau.