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November 23, 2021

Erik Kulleseid, Esq.
Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, New York 12207

Re: NYS IG 2907-010-2020

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid:

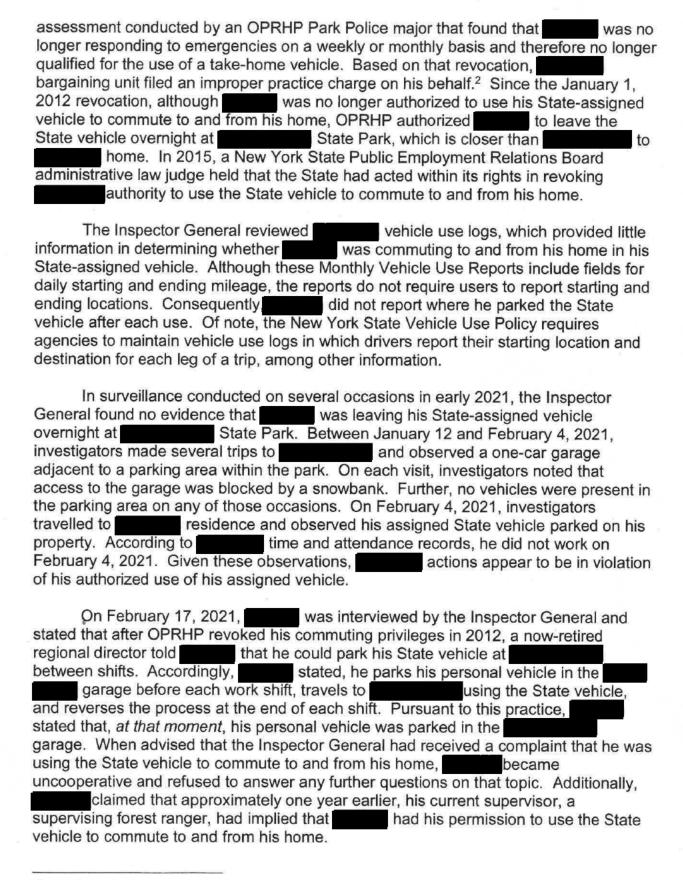
On December 25, 2020, the Offices of the New York State Inspector General received a complaint alleging that a forest ranger with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), has "for years" been misusing a State vehicle to commute to and from his home and place of employment at State Park. This letter reports the results of the Inspector General's investigation of this matter.

By way of background, the use of State vehicles assigned to OPRHP personnel is governed by both the New York State Vehicle Use and OPRHP policies. Both policies prohibit the personal use of State vehicles, and commuting with State vehicles is prohibited unless authorization has been received from the director of state operations. The New York State Vehicle Use Policy, which is reflected in OPRHP's policy, reads:

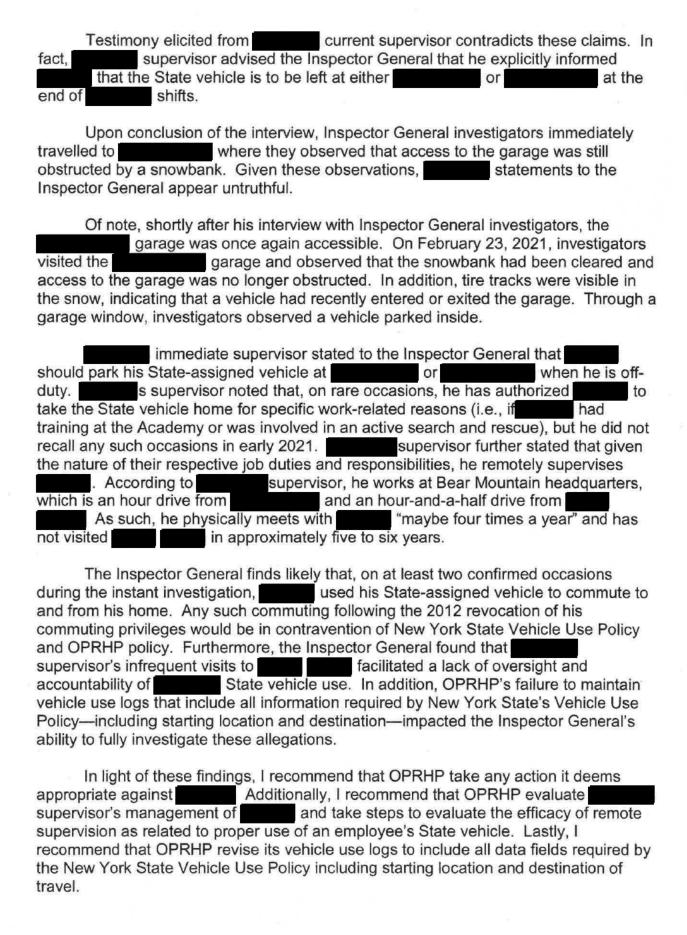
State vehicles may be used only for official State business, and their use for any personal business is strictly forbidden except under very limited circumstances where (i) personal use such as commuting is expressly authorized by the Director of State Operations or (ii) the personal use is incidental to official business . . .

	is a forest ranger assigned to	State Park. In 1999, OPRHP
assigned	a State vehicle to be used in the pe	erformance of his job duties, which
included use of	of the State vehicle as a "take-home veh	nicle" to commute between his
home and	. On January 1, 2012, over	objection, OPRHP
revoked his at	uthority to commute in the vehicle. This	

¹ See, New York State Memorandum to the Heads of State Agencies and Public Authorities entitled State Vehicle Use Policy (November 27, 2013) and OPRHP Policy OPR-PCD-002.



n stated to the Inspector General that he believed OPRHP had unfairly revoked his access to a take-home vehicle, which he viewed as a perk that came with the job when he was hired.



Please advise me of any action taken by OPRHP in response to these recommendations within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General James R. Davis at 518.474.1010.

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Robỳn Aldair Acting Inspector General

Cc: Jennifer Maglienti, Esq. General Counsel