

## **COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT**

Policy No. 44  
General Subject: Finance  
Specific Subject: Identity Theft Policy and Prevention Program  
Date Approved: October 20, 2008

The following policy is to implement the requirements of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 and the associated final “Red Flag” rules promulgated by the Federal Trade Commission requiring certain municipal departments to enact certain policies and procedures regarding Identity Theft Red Flags and Prevention by November 1, 2008.

### **BACKGROUND**

The risk to the City, its employees and customers from data loss and identity theft is of significant concern to the City and can be reduced only through the combined efforts of every employee and contractor.

### **PURPOSE**

The City adopts this identity theft program and policy to help protect employees, customers, contractors and the City from damages related to the loss or misuse of sensitive information. This policy will:

1. Define sensitive information;
2. Place the City in compliance with state and federal law regarding identity theft protection.

This policy enables the City to protect existing customers, reducing risk from identity fraud, and minimize potential damage to the City from fraudulent new accounts. The program will help the City:

1. Identify risks that signify potentially fraudulent activity within new or existing covered accounts;
2. Detect risks when they occur in covered accounts;
3. Respond to risks to determine if fraudulent activity has occurred and act if fraud has been attempted or committed; and
4. Update the program periodically, including reviewing the accounts that are covered and the identified risks that are part of the program.

### **SCOPE**

This policy and protection program applies to employees, contractors, consultants, temporary workers, and other workers at the City, including all personnel affiliated with third parties.

## **POLICY**

### Sensitive Information Policy

Definition of Sensitive Information - Sensitive information includes the following items whether stored in electronic or printed format which could be used on its own or in conjunction with other information to commit identity theft:

Credit card information, including any of the following:

1. Credit card number (in part or whole)
2. Credit card expiration date
3. Cardholder name
4. Cardholder address

Tax identification numbers, including:

1. Social Security number
2. Business identification number
3. Employer identification numbers

Payroll information, including, among other information:

1. Paychecks
2. Pay stubs

Other personal information belonging to any customer, employee or contractor, examples of which include:

1. Date of birth
2. Address
3. Phone numbers
4. Maiden name
5. Names
6. Customer number

City personnel are encouraged to use common sense judgment in securing confidential information to the proper extent. Furthermore, this section should be read in conjunction with the Illinois Local Records Act and the City's local records policy. If an employee is uncertain of the sensitivity of a particular piece of information, he/she should contact his/her supervisor.

## **IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM**

### Covered accounts

A covered account includes any account that involves or is designed to permit multiple payments or transactions. Every new and existing customer account that meets the following criteria is covered by this program:

1. Business, personal and household accounts for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of identity theft; or

2. Business, personal and household accounts for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk to the safety or soundness of the City from identity theft, including financial, operational, compliance, reputation, or litigation risks.

### Red flags

The following red flags are potential indicators of fraud. Any time a red flag, or a situation closely resembling a red flag, is apparent, it should be investigated for verification.

1. Alerts, notifications or warnings from a consumer reporting agency or service provider.
- 2: Suspicious documents
  - a. Documents provided for identification that appear to have been altered or forged.
  - b. The photograph or physical description on the identification is not consistent with the appearance of the applicant or customer presenting the identification.
  - c. Other information on the identification is not consistent with information provided by the person opening a new covered account or customer presenting the identification.
  - d. Other information on the identification is not consistent with readily accessible information that is on file with the City.
  - e. An application appears to have been altered or forged, or gives the appearance of having been destroyed and reassembled.
- 3: Suspicious personal identifying information
  - a. Personal identifying information provided is inconsistent when compared against external information sources used by the City. For example:
    - The Social Security number (SSN) has not been issued or is listed on the Social Security Administration's Death Master File; or
    - Personal identifying information provided by the customer is not consistent with other personal identifying information provided by the customer. For example, there is a lack of correlation between the SSN range and date of birth.
  - b. Personal identifying information provided is associated with known fraudulent activity as indicated by internal or third-party sources used by the City. For example, the address on an application is the same as the address provided on a fraudulent application.

- c. Personal identifying information provided is of a type commonly associated with fraudulent activity as indicated by internal or third-party sources used by the City. For example:
  - The address on an application is fictitious, a mail drop, or a prison; or
  - The phone number is invalid or is associated with a pager or answering service.
- d. The SSN provided is the same as that submitted by other persons opening an account or other customers.
- e. The address or telephone number provided is the same as or similar to the address or telephone number submitted by an unusually large number of other customers or other persons opening accounts.
- f. The customer or the person opening the covered account fails to provide all required personal identifying information on an application or in response to notification that the application is incomplete.
- g. Personal identifying information provided is not consistent with personal identifying information that is on file with the City.
- h. When using security questions (mother's maiden name, pet's name, etc.), the person opening the covered account or the customer cannot provide authenticating information beyond that which generally would be available from a wallet or consumer report.

4: Unusual use of, or suspicious activity related to, the covered account

- a. Shortly following the notice of a change of address for a covered account, the City receives a request for new, additional, or replacement goods or services, or for the addition of authorized users on the account.
- b. A new revolving credit account is used in a manner commonly associated with known patterns of fraud patterns. For example, the customer fails to make the first payment or makes an initial payment but no subsequent payments
- c. A covered account is used in a manner that is not consistent with established patterns of activity on the account. There is, for example:
  - Nonpayment when there is no history of late or missed payments;
  - A material change in purchasing or usage patterns.
- d. A covered account that has been inactive for a reasonably lengthy period of time is used (taking into consideration the type of account, the expected pattern of usage and other relevant factors).

- e. Mail sent to the customer is returned repeatedly as undeliverable although transactions continue to be conducted in connection with the customer's covered account.
- f. The City is notified that the customer is not receiving paper account statements.
- g. The City is notified of unauthorized charges or transactions in connection with a customer's covered account.
- h. The City receives notice from customers, victims of identity theft, law enforcement authorities, or other persons regarding possible identity theft in connection with covered accounts held by the City
- i. The City is notified by a customer, a victim of identity theft, a law enforcement authority, or any other person that it has opened a fraudulent account for a person engaged in identity theft.

### **Responding to Red Flags**

A: Once potentially fraudulent activity is detected, an employee must act quickly as a rapid appropriate response can protect customers and the City from damages and loss.

A.1: Once potentially fraudulent activity is detected, gather all related documentation and write a description of the situation. Present this information to the designated authority for determination.

A.2: The designated authority will complete additional authentication to determine whether the attempted transaction was fraudulent or authentic.

B: If a transaction is determined to be fraudulent, appropriate actions must be taken immediately. Actions may include:

1. Closing the existing covered account;
2. Notifying and cooperating with appropriate law enforcement;
3. Determining the extent of liability of the City; and
4. Notifying the actual customer that fraud has been attempted.

### **Periodic Updates to Program**

A: At least annually, the program will be re-evaluated to determine whether all aspects of the program are up to date and applicable in the current business environment and whether any changes need to be made in response to any instances of identity theft or to changing identity theft risks.

B: Periodic reviews will include an assessment of which accounts are covered by the program and whether there are any new accounts.

- C: As part of the review, red flags may be revised, replaced or eliminated. Defining new red flags may also be appropriate.
- D: Actions to take in the event that fraudulent activity is discovered may also require revision to reduce damage to the City and its customers.

### **Program Administration**

#### **A: Involvement of management**

1. The Identity Theft Prevention Program shall not be operated as an extension to existing fraud prevention programs, and its importance warrants the highest level of attention.
2. The Identity Theft Prevention Program is the responsibility of the governing body. Approval of the initial plan must be appropriately documented and maintained.
3. Operational responsibility of the program is delegated to the City Manager.

#### **B: Staff training**

1. Staff training shall be conducted for all employees for whom it is reasonably foreseeable that they may come into contact with accounts or personally identifiable information that may constitute a risk to the City or its customers.
2. The City Manager is responsible for ensuring identity theft training for all requisite employees.
3. To ensure maximum effectiveness, employees may continue to receive additional training as changes to the program are made.

#### **C: Oversight of service provider arrangements**

1. It is the responsibility of the City to ensure that the activities of all service providers are conducted in accordance with reasonable policies and procedures designed to detect, prevent, and mitigate the risk of identity theft.
2. A service provider that maintains its own identity theft prevention program, consistent with the guidance of the red flag rules and validated by appropriate due diligence, may be considered to be meeting these requirements.
3. Any specific requirements should be specifically addressed in the appropriate contract arrangements.