

Richard G. Morton

June 13, 2008

Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci
Chief Steve Neubauer

VIA FAX: (630) 530 1229 / (630) 530 3014

Gentlemen,

I attended the city of Elmhurst's cruise night on June 11th 2008 and parked my Chevelle in a disabled parking place. Being a paraplegic I placed my disabled parking permit on the mirror and enjoyed the show for awhile. Later I returned to find that I was ticketed for parking in a disabled parking place.

Now I find that a hoot considering that I have been a paraplegic for 31 years and totally reliant on my wheelchair for mobility. In an effort to resolve this misunderstanding I flagged down two police officers that were on foot patrol. That is when I encountered my service related problem, at first despite the officers seeing me, they did not respond to my attempts for help. I had to roll over to them crossing the street to finally get their attention. I asked for their help in straightening out what to me is a simple matter. It turns out that I made a mistake and had inadvertently placed an expired disabled parking card (although I was issued a new - valid one which the state of Illinois has on record) on my mirror. On the matter of expiration the word PERMENET is printed at the top of the card. Hard to understand that word in the context of expiration. However I had other documentation available to me that evening that could have cleared this matter up but the officers couldn't be bothered. I asked them if they would contact the officer that wrote the ticket – **they refused**. I asked them to contact a supervisor – **they refused**. I asked the officers to make a note on the face of the ticket stating that they observed me - a disabled man in possession of the vehicle subject to the ticket to aid me in clearing the matter up – **they refused**. I would note the ticket had all of my private personal information which must have been obtained from accessing the secretary of states database which has complete data on me, my disability and the various disabled plates and parking permits issued to me and all are on file.

The good news is the following day I went to Elmhurst village hall - finance department, met with Patty, provided her with the information she requested and she told me the ticket was dismissed. A satisfactory outcome except it added significantly to the hardships I endure on a daily basis and given my health and disability it was taxing. In closing this experience has left me with negative attitude about Elmhurst. Perhaps my expectations are not consistent with what's possible in government or what you intend, if so I apologize for taking up your time.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Morton