

13-199

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission, and referring to the Department's note No. 94-333, dated December 16, 1994, wishes to remind them of the Office of Foreign Missions' vehicle registration policy as it relates to the payment of parking tickets issued by the District of Columbia.

Chiefs of Mission are reminded, as more fully explained in the Department's circular note No. 10-181, dated September 24, 2010, (found at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/149985.pdf>) that foreign missions and their members are obligated under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to respect local law, and are expected to pay or contest all minor traffic infractions (including parking tickets) in a timely manner.

Chiefs of Mission are advised that it is the policy of the Office of Foreign Missions to withhold registration renewals of vehicles belonging to foreign missions or their members when the District of Columbia's records show that unpaid parking tickets, or any other tickets, such as photo-enforced moving violations, associated with the vehicle in the District's records older

than one year have been assessed against the vehicle. The Department provides the following example to clarify the policy: A ticket is issued by the District of Columbia to a vehicle in January 2013. The vehicle's registration is scheduled for annual renewal in April 2013. In April 2013, the Department will renew the registration, because the ticket is only three months old. If the same ticket remains unpaid or is not in adjudication by the next annual renewal date of April 2014, *i.e.* fifteen months later, the registration will not be renewed. The vehicle will not receive a new decal or a registration document and consequently cannot be operated legally in the United States.

The Department cautions the missions that vehicles with expired registration decals may be cited by law enforcement officials for failing to have proper registration. The Department takes any such citation seriously, considering it to be inconsistent with the duty of foreign missions and their members to respect local laws.

With respect to any tickets issued by the District of Columbia, missions are reminded that the Department has no authority to adjudicate traffic citations or otherwise intercede with the Government of the District of Columbia on such matters. Therefore missions are to direct all inquiries to the relevant District of Columbia authorities. The Department encourages

mission members who believe that a ticket has been issued improperly to avail themselves of the District of Columbia's adjudication process. To contest a ticket, the mission or mission member may send a representative to appear at the Bureau of Traffic Adjudication located at 301 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Adjudication via mail is also available, and all correspondence should be directed to DMV Adjudication Services, Attention: Mail Adjudication, P.O. Box 37135, Washington, D.C. 20013. Payments for tickets should be made payable to "D.C. Treasurer" and should be sent to the Bureau of Traffic Adjudication, P.O. Box 2014, Washington, D.C. 20013. Missions and their members may also pay their tickets online at the District's Ticket Payment website,

https://wmq.etimspayments.com/pbw/include/dc_parking/input.jsp?ticketType=P. Chiefs of Mission should note, and should remind their members, that if a ticket is not paid or contested within 30 days of receiving the ticket, a penalty equal to the fine amount is added *i.e.*, the amount of the fine will double.

At the time of registration renewal, if a ticket has been recently paid or is in adjudication, the mission or mission member should send proof of payment in the form of a receipt from the District of Columbia or a copy of

the ticket (if available), and proof that the ticket is being adjudicated (*i.e.* copies of correspondence to and from the District of Columbia) to the Office of Foreign Missions' main email address at ofmcustomerservice@state.gov.

Questions regarding this policy may be addressed to the above email address or to the Office of Foreign Missions at 202-895-3500.

Department of State,
Washington,



APR 5 2013