



# **BMV NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 16, 2012

## **Three Organizations Removed from Special Group Recognition License Plate Program**

INDIANAPOLIS – At the written request of twenty Indiana Senators, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has reviewed allegations that the Indiana Youth Group (IYG) violated its professional services contract for participation in the Special Group Recognition License Plate Program with the BMV by offering low-digit license plates for unauthorized monetary contributions.

The BMV has determined that the IYG violated state law and Indiana Administrative Code, along with Section 1.A.viii of the contract, and has suspended IYG's further participation in the Special Group Recognition License Plate Program, effective March 16, 2012.

After the Senators brought this violation to our attention, the BMV reviewed the websites of all other organizations currently participating in the Special Group Recognition License Plate Program and found that the Greenways Foundation and the Indiana 4-H Foundation have also violated state law and administrative code by publicizing the sale of low-digit special group license plates for their respective organizations. Therefore, the BMV is also suspending their further participation in the Special Group Recognition License Plate Program, effective March 16, 2012. No new plates will be issued for these three organizations after that date; however, plates already issued may be renewed until the Legislature alters or clarifies the Special Group Recognition License Plate Program. This decision was based on the Indiana Code limiting the fees that the BMV may collect to \$25.00 and the Indiana Administrative Code prohibiting the unauthorized sale of low digit plates. This provision was originally added to the Indiana Administrative Code to prevent license plate fundraising abuse when the BMV was a political operation.

All organizations in the specialty group plate program will receive notice from the BMV reminding them of the provisions of the Indiana Code and Indiana Administrative Code that prohibit the unauthorized sale of their low-digit plates. If proof of similar activity by any other organization is brought to the BMV, the BMV staff will pursue and administer similar sanctions based on similar circumstances.

Greenways Foundation	725 plates in 2011	256 plates in 2012	started in 2011
Indiana 4-H Foundation	1,811 plates in 2011	439 plates in 2012	started in 1996
Indiana Youth Group	n/a	669 plates in 2012	started in 2012

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