



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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- CONTACT: Dave Druker
or
- CONTACT: Randy Nehrt

White Awards License Plate Sticker Contract to Belleville Facility

BELLEVILLE — Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that St. Clair Associated Vocational Enterprises, Inc. (SAVE), a not-for-profit sheltered care facility serving the developmentally disabled, has been awarded a contract to produce Illinois license plate renewal stickers. The stickers will be distributed to the public beginning with January 2001 expirations.

The stickers, which have been redesigned to fit the new design license plates being distributed later in the year, will also utilize bar code technology. For the first time, the Secretary of State's office will be able to track the sale of a sticker throughout the order system and police officers will be able to match a sticker with the owner of the license plate by a computer search.

"We are pleased to offer the citizens of Illinois better protection from license plate registration fraud and to provide SAVE with this opportunity to provide specialized work for the people they serve," said White. "SAVE has an excellent track record in the community and we look forward to doing business with them."

SAVE has been devoted to vocational training for 27 years, and maintains a residential living area as well. Many of the 300 clients come from the Belleville area. The agency has contracts with other companies including Eckert's Orchards, Empire Comfort Systems, Ideal Stencil Machine & Tape Company and Crown Therapeutics, Inc.

"We are excited about this opportunity for our clients and for the state," said Randolph Law, Executive Director of SAVE. "This is a perfect example of a public-private partnership that benefits everyone involved."

The contract calls for SAVE to produce the nearly 12 million stickers applied to Illinois license plates annually as proof of renewal. According to the contract, the state will be paying 10 cents per sticker.

"The state will be receiving a quality product at an excellent price," said White. "I am proud to be able to provide an opportunity to these workers and this community, and answer to the taxpayers of this state that we have brokered a good deal on their behalf."

Secretary White thanked State Representatives Dan Reitz (D- Sparta), Tom Holbrook (D-Belleville) and Jay Hoffman (D-Edwardsville) and State Senator James Clayborne (D-East St. Louis) as well as local officials for supporting SAVE's efforts to adapt its physical operation for higher security and greater output.

The new stickers are being distributed at the beginning of the calendar year of 2001, meaning some vehicles will receive the new stickers prior to their turn in the replating cycle. This includes some passenger cars in the first part of 2001 and all other vehicles, including B-trucks, which are not being replated until 2003.

To accommodate the new sticker's placement on current, old- design plates, those motorists will receive a blank sticker with the smaller renewal sticker. The blank sticker must first be affixed to cover up the old, larger sticker and then the new renewal sticker should be affixed on top of the right portion of the blank sticker.

"We are communicating this change because it may be confusing for some motorists having to affix two stickers instead of one," explained Secretary White. "The blank sticker is being applied so law enforcement personnel can make a quicker visual check that a vehicle is in compliance with the law."