

**Specialty License Plate**  
**In God We Trust Foundation, Inc.**  
**In God We Trust**  
**Audit Report 202122-15**

December 13, 2021

## Introduction and Background

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The purpose of this audit was to determine compliance with applicable laws and policies related to the annual reporting by the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., (Foundation) for the In God We Trust specialty license plate. The Foundation is required to submit a Specialty License Plate Revenue, Expenditure, and Compliance Affidavit, or state single audit, to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (Department) within nine months after the end of the Foundation's fiscal year. The affidavit submitted by the Foundation for the 2020 Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2020, was used for this audit.

Specialty license plates are license plates available to the public with unique designs that promote philanthropic and other causes and require payment of an additional annual use fee.

Section 320.08056, Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizes the issuance of all specialty license plates and specifies the annual use fee for the more than 120 specialty license plates Florida offers. For every In God We Trust specialty license plate sold or renewed, a \$25 annual use fee is charged and distributed, as required by statute.

Section 320.08062(3), F.S., grants the Department the authority to examine all records relating to the use of specialty license plate funds. The Office of Inspector General included the examination of specialty license plate recipient organizations in its annual work plan.

Section 320.08058(63)(b), F.S., specifies the In God We Trust license plate annual use fee must be distributed to the Foundation which may use up to 10 percent of proceeds to offset marketing, administration, and promotion, and the remainder of the proceeds to address the needs of the following:

- military community and public safety community;
- provide educational grants and scholarships to foster self-reliance and stability of Florida's children; and
- provide education in public and private schools regarding the historical significance of religion in American and Florida history.



The In God We Trust specialty license plate was established in 2008. There were 19,837 active In God We Trust specialty license plates as of December 2020. The Foundation reported receipts of \$519,735.81 in specialty license plate fees for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

## Results of Audit

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The Foundation materially complied with applicable laws and policies related to the annual reporting for the In God We Trust specialty license plate.

## Purpose, Scope, and Methodology

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The purpose of this audit was to determine the Foundation's compliance with applicable laws and policies related to the annual reporting by the Foundation for the In God We Trust specialty license plate.

The scope of this audit included specialty license plate revenues and expenditures reported on the Foundation's affidavit for the 2020 Fiscal Year, and specialty license plate revenue and expenditures reported in the Foundation's financial records for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

The methodology for the audit of the In God We Trust specialty license plate included:

- Reviewing Florida Statutes, Department policies, and Foundation policies;
- Reconciling the Department's distribution of specialty license plate fees to revenues reported on the affidavit filed by the Foundation;
- Reconciling the expenditures reported on the affidavit to the Foundation financial records;
- Reviewing the use of funds by the Foundation to ensure there is adequate supporting documentation, and the expenditures are for purposes authorized by statute;
- Reviewing timing, availability, and content of reports such as affidavits, single audits, or subrecipient monitoring; and
- Comparing expenditures to statutory requirements for annual allocation limits, and reviewing reasonableness of balances.



# Office of Inspector General

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## **Distribution, Statement of Accordance, and Project Team**

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### **Distribution**

Terry L. Rhodes, Executive Director  
Jennifer Langston, Chief of Staff  
Robert Kynoch, Director of Motorist Services  
Stephanie Duhart, Chief Administrative Officer, Division of Motorist Services

Bruce Jonas, President, In God We Trust Foundation, Inc.  
Martin Boire, Vice President, In God We Trust Foundation, Inc.  
Joseph Anania, Board Member, In God We Trust Foundation, Inc.

Melinda M. Miguel, Chief Inspector General  
Sherrill F. Norman, Auditor General

### **Statement of Accordance**

Section 20.055, Florida Statutes, requires the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Inspector General to review, evaluate, and report on policies, plans, procedures, accounting, financial, and other operations of the Department and to recommend improvements. This audit engagement was conducted in accordance with applicable *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* published by the Institute of Internal Auditors and *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* published by the Association of Inspectors General. Pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, public records held by the Department's Inspector General are available upon request for inspection or copying.

### **Project Team**

Engagement conducted by:  
Jill Sittig, Auditor

Under the supervision of:  
Erin Mook, Audit Director

Approved by:

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Mike Stacy, Inspector General