



DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CITY OF CHICAGO

TO: Steve Berlin
Executive Director, ETHICS

FROM: 
Jamie L. Rhee
Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Procurement Services

RE: TM Forum Smart City Innovation Center and Smart City InFocus Conference

DATE: September 27, 2017

This email is to confirm that I attended the TM Forum Smart City Innovation Center and Smart City InFocus conference, which took place September 19th-21st, 2017, in Yinchuan, People's Republic of China.

Yinchuan is one of China's leading smart cities, having been selected as a pilot back in 2013. After more than two years of investing in smart city infrastructure and construction, the city has achieved success in 13 areas including smart government, transportation and environmental protection.

Yinchuan is also home to the Smart Yinchuan Innovation Centre, which features a city platform that demonstrates the economy of data concept – how to create a secure, transparent environment where public data can be made available and combined with third parties' data and ideas. These are the raw ingredients needed to create new, innovative services, business models and value for cities, their citizens and local businesses.

These components are in line with the Mayor's vision for transparency for the City of Chicago and complements the work of the Procurement Reform Task Force (PRTF), which is chaired by myself and City of Chicago Inspector General Joe Ferguson. The work of the PRTF seeks to make the work of the City and six Sister Agencies standardized, efficient and transparent. The trip allowed me to gather best practices in these areas.

The TM Forum paid the cost for my participation which included airfare, hotel and all ground transfers, at no cost to the City. I stayed in Beijing for two days for which I personally paid all my expenses and will use two vacation days.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.