

December 9, 2021

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ANNOUNCES \$3.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH VOLKSWAGEN OVER
TAMPERING WITH VEHICLE DIESEL EMISSIONS CONTROLS**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a more than \$3.5 million settlement with Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and related Volkswagen entities (Volkswagen). The settlement resolves a lawsuit against the company for tampering with vehicle emissions controls in its 2.0-liter and 3.0-liter Volkswagen and Audi diesel engine cars sold nationwide.

Raoul's office filed a consent order in Cook County Circuit Court that requires Volkswagen to pay \$300 for each of the nearly 12,000 affected vehicles. The Attorney General's office filed the lawsuit in 2016 alleging Volkswagen violated state environmental laws by equipping vehicles with software that allowed them to pass environmental emissions tests while actually emitting higher levels of nitrogen oxides than allowed under the law.

"Volkswagen intentionally tampered with vehicles it claimed to be environmentally friendly but were actually releasing harmful emissions," Raoul said. "Today's settlement will hold them accountable for their actions that violated environmental laws and deceived consumers. I am committed to continuing to protect Illinois residents from companies whose actions pollute our environment."

In September 2015, Volkswagen admitted to installing elaborate software units in clean diesel car models – hundreds of thousands of which were sold across the United States, and approximately 20,000 of which were sold in Illinois – that suspended on-board pollution controls, except when the vehicles were undergoing emissions testing. In January 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, filed a four-count complaint against Volkswagen, alleging violations of the Clean Air Act. This federal case was resolved with a consent order in October 2016 that provided for, among other things, injunctive relief for consumers that purchased affected vehicles.

In November 2016, the Attorney General's office filed its own lawsuit against Volkswagen alleging that the company violated state environmental laws. The Attorney General's office later filed an amended complaint alleging that Volkswagen also violated state anti-tampering regulations when the company instituted a recall of 11,974 vehicles in 2014 for the purpose of optimizing the fraudulent emissions control devices.

Under today's consent order, Volkswagen will be required to pay \$300 for each of the nearly 12,000 affected vehicles, for a total payment of \$3,592,200.

Laura Wunder handled the case for Raoul's Civil Appeals Bureau, and Gerald Karr handled the case for Raoul's Environmental Enforcement Division.