



March 9, 2014

Blue Island
Burnham
Calumet City
Calumet Park
Chicago Heights
Country Club Hills
Crete
Dixmoor
Dolton
East Hazel Crest
Flossmoor
Ford Heights
Glenwood
Harvey
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Lansing
Lynwood
Markham
Matteson
Midlothian
Mokena
Monee
New Lenox
Oak Forest
Olympia Fields
Orland Hills
Orland Park
Palos Heights
Park Forest
Phoenix
Posen
Richton Park
Riverdale
Robbins
Sauk Village
South Chicago Heights
South Holland
Steger
Thornton
Tinley Park
University Park

President Toni Preckwinkle and
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle and County Commissioners:

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I write to you today on behalf of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association regarding Commissioner Suffredin's proposed ordinance allowing for the creation of a municipal inspector general through the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association has extensively reviewed the proposed ordinance at recent meetings including the Association's business meeting on February 20, 2014 and an Executive Committee meeting on March 5, 2014. These meetings have resulted in substantial input from numerous south suburban mayors, as well as discussions with Ms. Cara Smith of the Cook County Sheriff's Office and Mr. Brian Miller of Commissioner Suffredin's Office.

I want to advise you that after lengthy and deliberate discussions of the proposed ordinance, the South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association Executive Committee opposes this ordinance and respectfully requests that you and the Cook County Board vote against passage for the following reasons:

(A) According to Cook County Sheriff's personnel, the genesis for this ordinance is the alleged inability of the Illinois State Comptroller's Office to enforce the requirement that municipalities complete and timely submit annual financial audits. If that indeed is the issue, state legislation should be enacted to ensure that the State of Illinois Comptroller has the power and resources to enforce this municipal accounting obligation. Alternatively, state legislation should be enacted to allow the State Comptroller to establish agreements with county sheriff offices in every county of the State of Illinois for assistance in enforcement.

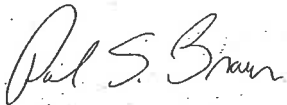
(B) The South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association Executive Committee has serious concerns regarding the legality of Cook County establishing regulatory enforcement authority over municipalities' financial reporting, practice, and auditing under the aegis of enforcing state mandated financial requirements. Furthermore, enforcement against municipalities that fail to file financial reports with the State Comptroller is the responsibility of the State of Illinois. For a county to assume this state mandated responsibility is simply over reaching.

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(C) The proposed ordinance allows the Cook County Sheriff's Office to investigate matters totally removed from the requirement of financial reporting for municipalities. Granting the Cook County Sheriff's Office the authority to conduct audits of municipal police and public safety records under the premise of enforcing state mandated financial reporting requirements is further evidence that the proposed ordinance is over reaching and overbroad.

(D) If enacted, the Association strongly believes that this ordinance will be the subject of protracted, expensive, and burdensome litigation in the courts to resolve the serious questions of legality and constitutionality between municipalities and the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. Braun".

Mayor Paul S. Braun
President, SSMMA

PB/rk