

October 20, 2014

I am pleased to inform you that since taking office on December 6, 2010 I have made marked improvements to the Assessor's Office, while maintain a high level of fiscal responsibility. My administration is focused on and committed to the continuous development of forward thinking and proactive programs and initiatives.

Over my tenure I have made sweeping changes within the Assessor's Office. These changes have allowed me to refine the assessment cycle, upgrade the office's technological capabilities, and advance a legislative agenda that has proved to be of great benefit to taxpayers, Cook County and numerous other taxing bodies.

We have decreased spending at the Assessor's Office, while increasing productivity and the quality of customer service thanks to the hard work of my staff. I remain highly committed to providing the public with accessible and efficient service whether virtually, over the phone or in person.

My office's collaboration with different branches and municipalities in government, educational institutions, civic groups and non-governmental organizations is a key component in my effort to bring new and innovative ideas to the property tax arena. Thus, I have tasked my staff with the development and strengthening of such partnerships. These partnerships will continue to be a priority to my administration and I am confident that they will continue to benefit the residents of Cook County and the State of Illinois.

In the first full of this administration (tax year 2011) the assessment process was successfully accelerated so that the 2011 second installment tax bills were issued by the statutory due date for the first time in thirty-four years. Similarly the 2012 second installment tax bills went out on time.

We are also fully implementing the Erroneous Exemption legislation which ends the abuse of existing erroneous exemptions and recoups lost district revenue for schools and municipalities. Since the law was passed last year, \$5,092,802.36 in revenue has been collected, \$9,362,336.37 billed and \$4,268,534.01 is currently outstanding.

My office has managed to achieve these strides with a decreased and relatively stable budget. You will find included with this letter a detailed breakdown of my office's recent accomplishments.

I would like to thank you for your past support, without which my job would have been much more difficult, and I hope to continue to have your support in the future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Berrios
Cook County Assessor