



December 17, 2025

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

**TO: COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**FROM: KRISTI DE LAURENTIIS, SSMMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: AGENDA ITEM 25-4208. GUIDEHOUSE, INC., STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTING SERVICES**

Good morning, Cook County Board of Commissioners, Members of the Technology and Innovation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Kristi DeLaurentiis, Executive Director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, known as SSMMA, an organization that supports and provides technical assistance and joint services to 45 member municipalities representing a population of over 700,000 residents.

I'm testifying today as I want to express my support for an extension of Guidehouse, Inc's contract for strategic management consulting services into 2026. SSMMA has engaged with Guidehouse' consultants numerous times since the onset of Covid and have been impressed with the support and guidance and valuable assistance on technical matters they've provided to County and to south suburban municipalities. I believe their services will be needed more than ever as ARPA programs begin to wind down in 2026, and I applaud your foresight in recognizing this.

I also hope they are working to ensure that Tyler Technologies and months late delays in property tax bills and dispersions are finally—and satisfactorily—resolved.

Many of SSMMA's 45 member municipalities are resource-strapped and economically distressed, so every single day that tax dispersions are delayed is dire. Already many municipal leaders have reported they are experiencing operational cash flow shortfalls caused by the deferred 2<sup>nd</sup> installment property tax bills and delay in transfer payments—and they have received no direct communication with the County in recent weeks and months about any potential tax payments timetable! As we near the end of December that's nearly 5-month

delay which is extraordinarily challenging for communities that rely on those tax bill proceeds to conduct the very business of the community.

SSMMA communities don't have many alternative revenue sources other than property taxes collected from taxpayers. These monies pay the salaries of police, fire, and first responders, public works workers, administrative professionals and staff. They also go directly to pay existing debt obligations, pension payments, maintain public services, or tackle needed projects like clean water systems upgrades, sewers, and more. The current delay is already disproportionately impacting disinvested taxing districts and subsequently, residents in low-income communities like those in the Southland. Many communities simply don't have alternate revenue sources or "coffers" available to spend. In some instances, staff furloughs are already taking place.

As of this morning, I do not believe that any collected property tax monies have reached any community. Instead of just waiting for the technology challenges to be resolved and the collected payments to be dispersed, I respectfully submit to you that the County can and should implement a simple solution: **utilize the County's Bridge Funding Program to advance fund local taxing districts the equivalent of escrowed taxes that have been collected by tax code or jurisdiction to date.**

No loan agreement, no intercept, no tax anticipation note. Just issue a 1-time payment equal to the escrowed tax payments made by banks and mortgage companies per jurisdiction that have already been collected by the County. Then, finish working out the Tyler Technology bugs and continue dispersals regularly and as efficiently—and as soon— as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey our concerns with the late tax bill payments and to offer a simple, transparent, and crisis-adverting solution that could be implemented almost immediately to offset lost revenue from delayed property tax bill dispersals. I would be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristi DeLaurentiis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristi" and last name "DeLaurentiis" clearly distinguishable.

Kristi DeLaurentiis  
SSMMA Executive Director