



September 9, 2016

The Honorable Timothy O. Schneider
Cook County Commissioner
711 Chelmsford Lane
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Dear Commissioner Schneider:

I am contacting you on behalf of *Meet Chicago Northwest* to express concern about the proposed mandate from Cook County that all businesses offer paid sick leave to their employees. The ordinance, sponsored by Commissioner Gainer, will also apply to any firm that is licensed by, receives a contract from, or is awarded an incentive by Cook County.

My understanding is that the provisions of the ordinance will mirror those in Chicago's ordinance that was passed in June. The sick leave requirement will apply to any employee that works at least 80 hours in a 120-day period (or less than 5 hours/week). And, that for every 40 hours worked, one hour of paid sick leave shall accrue. The maximum accrual in any 12 month period is 40 hours.

Meet Chicago Northwest would like to point out several concerns with this proposal.

First, there are cost implications for businesses, particularly small businesses that are located in western Cook County. The ordinance cites a "small, 0.7 to 1.5 increase in labor costs for most employers." While we have not surveyed businesses to determine the accuracy of this statement, we disagree that the .7 to 1.5% increase should be described as "small." In fact, we have already heard concerns from area business partners that this mandate would cause them hardship to do business in Cook County.

Second, the proposed mandate will create an uneven playing field for businesses located in western Cook County in comparison to those in the rest of the metropolitan area. This will hinder economic development and business expansion in our area. Further, our Cook County business partners are located close enough to Lake and DuPage Counties that they are often competing for the same business.

Finally, there has been a lack of communication and discussion regarding the impact of this proposal. Our partner communities have not had sufficient time to study the impact or assess what type of policy is appropriate.

It is my understanding that this ordinance could be considered by the Cook County Board of Commissioners as early as September 14th. I respectfully request that you encourage the Board to defer any further action until additional information can be gathered, and additional discussion can take place with suburban communities and businesses that will be impacted by this proposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dave Parulo
President

cc:

Thomas Hayes, Mayor – Village of Arlington Heights
Craig Johnson, Mayor – Village of Elk Grove
Tom Rooney, Mayor - City of Rolling Meadows
Al Larson, Village President – Village of Schaumburg
Jon Ridler – Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce
Shirlanne Lemm – GOA Regional Business Association
Linda Ballatine, Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce
Kaili Harding – Schaumburg Business Association