



[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)

**Mayor**

Jonathan Vanderbilt

**Village Trustees**

Tiffani Graham  
Maya Hardy  
Candyce Herron  
Theresa M. Settles  
Erin I. Slone  
Joseph A. Woods

**Village Clerk**

Sheila McGann

**Village Manager**

Thomas Mick

January 24, 2022

Donna Miller

6th District Commissioner

Cook County Board of Commissioners

118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567

Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller:

**Village Hall**

350 Victory Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
(708) 748-1112

**DownTown**

**Management Office**  
226 Forest Blvd.  
(708) 503-8153

**Fire Department**

156 Indianwood Blvd.  
(708) 748-5605

**Freedom Hall**

410 Lakewood Blvd.  
(708) 747-0580

**Police Department**

200 Lakewood Blvd.  
(708) 748-4700

**Recreation and**

**Parks Department**  
350 Victory Drive  
(708) 748-2005


The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the Southland both economically and from a healthcare standpoint. With limited access to Cook County Health (CCH) facilities in many communities like ours, residents of the 6th District must travel even further to access County healthcare services and coupled with some of the closings of area hospitals, the far south suburbs have fewer and fewer convenient options for accessing the healthcare they need, including mental and behavioral health services. Historic disinvestment in the south suburbs, and the lack of mental health services has led to a number of problems, including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities. South suburban residents have access to far fewer support services and have greater difficulty accessing behavioral health clinical services due to provider shortages, in fact the majority of communities in the South region are designated as mental health professional shortage areas.

Therefore, I am writing in full support of the transformational American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding proposal for a Cook County Far South Regional Healthcare Hub, which you have proposed. I am grateful for the investments the County has made in the last few years in our south suburban communities, and those investments are bearing fruit as we are seeing new private sector investments flow into our region creating many career opportunities for our residents. Using ARPA funding to expand behavioral health services provided directly by Cook County Health (CCH) by opening a CCH Integrated Care Clinic or Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) south suburban hub or combination thereof in the far south suburbs that would include a behavioral health clinic among other programming such as workforce development would be instrumental in improving the health of the community and supporting these investments from the county.

Such a hub can serve as a focal point for partners from different sectors (i.e., healthcare, housing, transportation, education, senior services, community groups, etc.) that can come together to align individual efforts, thereby improving coordination, and fostering collaboration. In fact, my community would be a willing participant with a turn-key ready health facility currently vacant in the lower level of the Park Forest Village Hall. This space was toured by members of your team in July 2019 and is the former ADA-accessible location of the Park Forest Health Department. The space is approximately 6,000 square feet and complete with exam rooms, administrative offices, a conference room and more plus an attractive reception area conducive for families visiting for health support services. Located in Downtown Park Forest, this location is in the heart of our revitalized central business district and in close proximity to numerous business and government-sector partners.

On behalf of the Village of the Village of Park Forest, I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your diligent work during these trying times, and I hope you will be equally supportive of this transformational proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan M. Vanderbilt, Mayor  
Village of Park Forest



# VILLAGE OF THORNTON

115 EAST MARGARET STREET • THORNTON, ILLINOIS 60476

PHONE (708) 877-4456/57 • FAX (708) 877-4458

January 24, 2022

Donna Miller  
6th District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the Southland both economically and from a healthcare standpoint. With limited access to Cook County Health (CCH) facilities in many communities like ours, residents of the 6th District must travel even further to access County healthcare services and coupled with some of the closings of area hospitals, the far south suburbs have fewer and fewer convenient options for accessing the healthcare they need, including mental and behavioral health services. Historic disinvestment in the south suburbs, and the lack of mental health services has led to a number of problems, including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities. South suburban residents have access to far fewer support services and have greater difficulty accessing behavioral health clinical services due to provider shortages, in fact the majority of communities in the South region are designated as mental health professional shortage areas.

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Such a hub can serve as a focal point for partners from different sectors (i.e., healthcare, housing, transportation, education, senior services, community groups, etc.) that can come together to align individual efforts, thereby improving coordination, and fostering collaboration.

On behalf of the Village of Thornton, I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your diligent work during these trying times, and I hope you will be equally supportive of this transformational proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kolosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Kolosh" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Kolosh  
Village President



# Village of Richton Park

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January 24, 2022

Donna Miller  
6th District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the Southland both economically and from a healthcare standpoint. With limited access to Cook County Health (CCH) facilities in many communities like ours, residents of the 6th District must travel even further to access County healthcare services and coupled with some of the closings of area hospitals, the far south suburbs have fewer and fewer convenient options for accessing the healthcare they need, including mental and behavioral health services. Historic disinvestment in the south suburbs, and the lack of mental health services has led to a number of problems, including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities. South suburban residents have access to far fewer support services and have greater difficulty accessing behavioral health clinical services due to provider shortages, in fact the majority of communities in the South region are designated as mental health professional shortage areas.

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Such a hub can serve as a focal point for partners from different sectors (i.e., healthcare, housing, transportation, education, senior services, community groups, etc.) that can come together to align individual efforts, thereby improving coordination, and fostering collaboration.

On behalf of the Village of Richton Park, I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your diligent work during these

trying times, and I hope you will be equally supportive of this transformational proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Reinbold', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Reinbold  
Village President

February 4, 2022

Donna Miller  
6th District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the Southland both economically and from a healthcare standpoint. With limited access to Cook County Health (CCH) facilities in many communities like ours, residents of the 6th District must travel even further to access County healthcare services and coupled with some of the closings of area hospitals, the far south suburbs have fewer and fewer convenient options for accessing the healthcare they need, including mental and behavioral health services. Historic disinvestment in the south suburbs, and the lack of mental health services has led to a number of problems, including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities. South suburban residents have access to far fewer support services and have greater difficulty accessing behavioral health clinical services due to provider shortages, in fact the majority of communities in the South region are designated as mental health professional shortage areas.

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I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your diligent work during these trying times, and I hope you will be equally supportive of this transformational proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

*Marianne Bithos*

Marianne Bithos  
President  
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago

DISTRICT OFFICE:

195 W. JOE ORR ROAD  
SUITE 201  
CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60411  
(708) 754-7900  
FAX: (708) 754-7904  
E-mail: repdeluca@sbcglobal.net



## Anthony DeLuca

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 80TH DISTRICT

January 28, 2022

Donna Miller  
6th District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the Southland both economically and from a healthcare standpoint. With limited access to Cook County Health (CCH) facilities in many communities like ours, residents of the 6th District must travel even further to access County healthcare services and coupled with some of the closings of area hospitals, the far south suburbs have fewer and fewer convenient options for accessing the healthcare they need, including mental and behavioral health services. Historic disinvestment in the south suburbs, and the lack of mental health services has led to a number of problems, including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities. South suburban residents have access to far fewer support services and have greater difficulty accessing behavioral health clinical services due to provider shortages, in fact the majority of communities in the South region are designated as mental health professional shortage areas.

Therefore, I am writing in full support of the transformational American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding proposal for a Cook County Far South Regional Healthcare Hub, which you have proposed. I am grateful for the investments the County has made in the last few years in our south suburban communities, and those investments are bearing fruit as we are seeing new private sector investments flow into our region creating many career opportunities for our residents. Using ARPA funding to expand behavioral health services provided directly by Cook County Health (CCH) by opening a CCH Integrated Care Clinic or Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) south suburban hub or combination thereof in the far south suburbs that would include a behavioral health clinic among other programming such as workforce development would be instrumental in improving the health of the community and supporting these investments from the county.

DISTRICT OFFICE:

195 W. JOE ORR ROAD  
SUITE 201  
CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60411  
(708) 754-7900  
FAX: (708) 754-7904  
E-mail: repdeluca@sbcglobal.net



## Anthony DeLuca

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 80TH DISTRICT

Such a hub can serve as a focal point for partners from different sectors (i.e., healthcare, housing, transportation, education, senior services, community groups, etc.) that can come together to align individual efforts, thereby improving coordination, and fostering collaboration.

I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for your diligent work during these trying times, and I hope you will be equally supportive of this transformational proposal as I am.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony DeLuca".

Anthony DeLuca  
State Representative-80<sup>th</sup> District

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

113 E. 95TH STREET, SUITE A  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619  
PHONE: 773-783-8800

**SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:**

288-S STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
PHONE: 217-782-6476

**NICHOLAS K. SMITH**

State Representative • 34th District

Repsmith34@gmail.com

**CHAIRPERSON**

- Economic Opportunity & Equity

**VICE CHAIRPERSON**

- Appropriations: Higher Education
- International Trade & Commerce

**COMMITTEES**

- Energy & Environment
- Insurance
- Prescription Drug Affordability & Accessibility

February 4, 2022

Donna Miller  
6th District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Rm. 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

I am pleased to offer my support for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding proposal for a Cook County Far South Regional Healthcare Hub. The funding would allow the expansion of behavioral health services to be provided directly by Cook County Health, which would be instrumental in improving and investing in the health of the Southland community.

I proudly serve as Illinois State Representative for the 34th District and this proposal would positively impact my constituents in the South Suburbs. A Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) South Suburban Hub would serve as an integral resource for residents as it could offer services, relating to behavioral health and other social services (i.e., housing, transportation, education, senior services, community groups, etc.).

The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted a severe toll on the far South Suburbs highlighting the lack of accessibility to affordable health services. With few options for healthcare services and limited access to Cook County Health facilities, residents of the Southland communities must travel some distance to access county healthcare services. Historic disinvestment in the South Suburbs and the lack of mental health services have led to a number of issues including increased hospitalization, more expensive care, high incarceration, homelessness, substance use, suicide, and overburdening of existing programs or facilities.

I would like to thank President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board for their diligent work during these times and I look forward to working towards bringing accessible health services to the underserved residents of Cook County.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. K. Smith", written over a faint background of the Illinois House of Representatives building.

Representative Nicholas K. Smith  
34th District, Illinois House of Representatives



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
VILLAGE OF CHICAGO RIDGE

CHARLES E. TOKAR  
MAYOR

10455 S. Ridgeland Ave.  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415  
(708) 425-7700  
mayortokar@chicagoridge.org

February 8, 2022

Donna Miller  
6<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark St., Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Miller,

On behalf of the Village of Chicago Ridge, I am writing in full support of your funding proposal for a Cook County Far South Regional Healthcare Hub utilizing funds through the transformational American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only severely impacted Illinois economically but it has also brought an awareness to the lack of or limited access to Cook County Health facilities in many communities. The South/Southwest suburban residents of Cook County have been greatly affected during the pandemic with a lack of much needed healthcare accessibility as well as informational programs which in turn has increased the need for mental and behavioral services.

Using ARPA funding to expand mental and behavioral services along with other needed programming in the south suburbs is imperative to the health and vibrancy of the community.

Thank you for your continued hard work during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Tokar, J.D., MPA  
Village President

CET/jak