

Statement of David Grossman  
March 1, 2016

Chairman Suffredin and Commissioners, thank you for allowing me to appear before your committee to present my qualifications for, and explain my interest in, serving on the Cook County Board of Ethics.

First, my qualifications. I am a lawyer by education. I have over 38 years of public service in the military and at the federal and local levels of government. Among my other experiences, I was an FBI Special Agent for over 21 years and the Director of Investigations for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General for over seven years. The bulk of my time at these two agencies involved investigations of public corruption. At the FBI, I acted as an undercover agent for over three years in Operation Greylord, an investigation of the Cook County Judiciary. Later, I served as the case agent and supervisor of the squad conducting that long-term investigation. I also supervised Operation Gambat, Greylord's successor in uncovering corruption in the civil courts in Cook County, as well as helping to dismantle the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward's organized crime involvement in judicial corruption. I retired from the FBI in December 1999 as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Division, the FBI's fourth largest field office.

Beginning in November 2005, I, along with Inspector General David Hoffman and others, revamped a moribund City of Chicago Office of Inspector General into an effective law enforcement and audit office, which has become a model for other IG offices around the country. Until my retirement in January 2013, I served as the Director of Investigations, opening and closing all investigations, after weighing first the legitimacy of the allegation and finally, the sufficiency of the evidence obtained. Also, I worked with both investigators and attorneys to ensure that we were obtaining the evidence sufficient to sustain or not sustain an allegation and that we were, at all times, conducting our investigations in a legal and ethical manner. Three notable investigations conducted during my tenure involved the rampant acceptance of bribes by building inspectors, mileage fraud conducted by over 50 employees of the Fire Prevention Bureau and an investigation detailing waste and fraud in garbage collection within the Department of Streets and Sanitation. Also notable during my tenure was the production of a report detailing the City of Chicago's failure to conduct the necessary due diligence before signing a lease turning over the City's parking meter operation and revenues to a private concern.

My interest in becoming a member of the Board of Ethics began over lunch with a current Board of Ethics member, Margaret Daley, whom I had the good fortune to meet and work with during my brief foray into the private sector. Following this, I met with and was immensely impressed by Ranjit Hakim, the Executive Director of the Board. Just last week I learned that another prospective Board member is Juliet Sorensen, whom I had the privilege of working with when she was an Assistant United States Attorney. Knowing the makeup of this Board, I am certain that Cook

County is serious about its commitment to having an ethical workforce and is therefore something in which I would like to be involved. Today, ethics in government is more important than ever. Without it, the public loses faith in its governmental institutions and ultimately gives up caring about entities that affect so many facets of their everyday lives. When this happens, it's a slippery slope to further unethical conduct.

People from the private sector, who volunteer for jobs such as this, often speak of "giving back." For me, having spent most of my life in public service, it is a matter of "giving more." When I retired in 2013, I thought my tank was empty. Now, excited about this new opportunity, I know that I still have more to give and I believe that my investigative experience and my understanding of the sufficiency of evidence will be an asset to the Board of Ethics, the Cook County workforce and the citizens of Cook County. Finally, my wife, who is mostly retired, would like me to get out of the house more often.

Thank you for considering me for a position on the Board of Ethics. I would be honored to be confirmed by you to participate in this important and worthy cause.