KAREN A. YARBROUGH

RECORDER OF DEEDS / REGISTRAR OF TORRENS TITLES
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VIA EMAIL

October 20, 2017

Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Dear Chairman Daley:

I am writing to you on behalf of Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough in response to your request dated October 13, 2017 for our office to submit a plan ("either revenues and cuts, or both") for budget savings totaling 10% of the President's FY 2018 Budget Recommendation for this office. As we work cooperatively through these difficult times, it is important to acknowledge and note the significant budgetary reductions that Recorder Yarbrough has already done year after year:

- Over $2 Million in reductions from FY 2014 to the proposed FY 2018 budget.
- FY 2015, closure of the Maybrook Courthouse satellite office.
- FY 2017, closure of the Skokie Courthouse satellite office.
- 30% decrease in FTEs from 196 in FY 2013 to 138 current FTEs

Recorder Yarbrough's good fiscal stewardship didn't stop there. Last year she met the Board's request to reduce her budget by 8%, which led to the layoff of 17 employees. Although there was talk during last year's budget process of shared sacrifice from all County agencies, you commented, Mr. Chairman, at the FY 2017 Recorder of Deeds Budget Hearing that hers was one of the only agencies to acquiesce to the Board's request. Those reductions severely impacted our operations.

We feel that a mandatory flat 10% cut across all agencies, as fair as that sounds, is impractical. That approach doesn't take into account all sorts of variables that when considered could achieve a more equitable distribution of savings. Nevertheless, attached is a combination of revenue and reductions that exceed the 10% threshold.

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In the President's current Budget Recommendation, we have already cut our budget by over 5% through eliminating positions and reducing expenditure accounts. In addition, we are conservatively increasing our revenue projection by over $1 Million. This action satisfies the request and continues our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ext. 3-3981 or Recorder Yarbrough at ext. 3-5056.

Sincerely,

Cedric Giles
Chief Deputy Recorder

CC: Cook County Board of Commissioners

Attachment

FY 2018 Budget Plan

October 20, 2017

Department Representatives:
Honorable Karen A. Yarbrough, Recorder of Deeds
Cedric Giles, Chief Deputy Recorder

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

For the proposed FY 2018 budget we have already reduced our initial budget request for a cumulative reduction of 5.54% including vacant positions we chose not to fill and operational line item reductions. Proposing any additional workforce and operational line item reductions would impact us greatly.

PROPOSE REVENE INCREASES

1. Increase our FY 2018 Corporate Revenue Projection
    - Initial projection: $32,900,000.00 to $34,000,000.00 (3.4% Increase)

2. Institute Flat Recording Fee (Requires Legislative Action)
    - Potential Annual Increase: Approximately $3.9M