



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

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TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT

October 20, 2017

John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee
118 N. Clark, Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Chairman Daley:

On October 5, 2017, a balanced budget was presented to the Finance Committee for consideration. Subsequently, the revenue supporting the balanced budget was repealed by the Board of Commissioners by a vote of 15-2. As a result, you requested plans be submitted to Commissioners that reduces the submitted budget by 10%. The plan we are submitting is consistent with all other separately elected offices, in that it encompasses a plan for all Offices Under the President. A 10% reduction from the FY2018 Executive Budget Recommendation for the Offices Under the President totals **\$14,588,732** and covers the following Departments/Bureaus:

- Office of the President/Justice Advisory Council
- Bureau of Administration
- Bureau of Economic Development
- Bureau of Finance
- Bureau of Human Resources
- Bureau of Technology
- Bureau of Asset Management
- County Auditor
- Administrative Hearing Board
- Office of the Independent Inspector General
- Department of Human Rights and Ethics
- Secretary to the Board of Commissioners

A 10% reduction to the FY2018 Executive Budget Recommendation in the Offices Under the President would include **\$6.7 million** in personnel reductions comprised of 34 layoffs, 14 vacancy eliminations and other personnel related reduction. Additionally, departments are reducing various non-personnel accounts by **\$2.7 million** and the JAC will be reducing public safety grants by **\$0.4 million**. Finally, an additional **\$4.7 million** in revenue is anticipated as a result of increased enforcement activities, increased returns on investments and the sale of salvaged medical equipment.

It is unfortunate that layoffs and reductions of this magnitude must be considered as they significantly impact our operations and the services we provide to the residents of Cook County and every elected office in the County. The impact of these reductions will negatively impact County-wide operations in various ways, including the following:

Reduction in Alternative to Detention Grants will reduce critical resources needed to address unmet public safety needs and jeopardize the progress made on justice reform efforts. Through, technology the reduction of countywide contracts for maintenance and support for critical technology infrastructure will significantly be reduced. This can result in significant delays in the implementation of consolidation and efficiency initiatives approved by the Board. Further, important cyber security protocols would be severally compromised thereby increasing exposure to sensitive data.

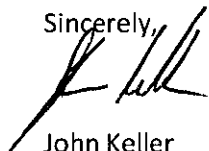
The Medical Examiner's Office has been successful in maintaining National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation. The following areas of potential deficiencies that may result from these reductions puts this accreditation at risk: non-sufficient technical staff coverage to handle the routine daily caseload of autopsy assistance; insufficient administrative support; lack of 24/7 investigation coverage; lack of quality assurance sufficient to assure the quality of the office or system work product; and increased average caseload (>325 cases) per pathologist. Additionally, these reductions include reduced funding for minor and indigent burials as well as funding for assistance to veterans in need and resources.

Through the Department of Environment and Sustainability, 200 jobs have been created through Brownfield cleanup projects. Due to these cuts, this program will be reduced, thus reducing the number of jobs made available to Cook County residents.

While the gap of \$200.6 million must be closed to meet the County's basic fiduciary duty to pass a balanced budget, we urge the Board to consider reductions that are least impactful to services provided to the residents of Cook County. The Offices Under the President are committed to working with the Board of Commissioners to find sound, fiscally responsible solutions that further our commitment to making Cook County healthier, safer and more efficient.

Feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



John Keller
Chief of Staff
Office of the President

cc: Toni Preckwinkle, President
Board of Commissioners
Tanya Anthony, Budget Director
Ammar Rizki, Chief Financial Officer

Martha Martinez, Chief Administrative Officer
Velisha Haddox, Bureau Chief, Human Resources
Simona Rollinson, Chief Information Officer
Ann Kayalil, Bureau Chief, Asset Management
Shelly Banks, County Auditor
Marc Hamilton, Director, Administrative Hearings
Patrick Blanchard, Inspector General
Ranjit Hakim, Director, Human Rights and Ethics