



OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR  
COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO 60602

JOSEPH BERRIOS  
ASSESSOR

October 27, 2017

It has been my pleasure to achieve the goals of increased performance, cost-effectiveness and other improvements in the Cook County Assessor's Office (CCAO) since I began here nearly seven years ago. Many of the responsibilities of the Office and the specific work we do has not changed, we remain committed to developing new initiatives which better serve all taxpayers, Cook County and numerous other taxing bodies.

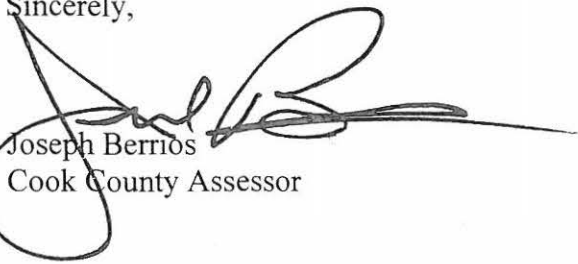
After a period of dramatic change, I can say with complete confidence that the CCAO is stronger now than ever before in taxpayer service, technology and community outreach. Further, we continue to advance legislative initiatives, work with municipalities and reap the benefits of having refined the assessment cycle. We have sent the tax bills out by the statutory due date for seven straight years, and are on track again for the 2017 year, after 34 years in which this did not occur.

The Erroneous Exemption Department, including the initial amnesty payment period, was allowed by law to officially begin billing in March 2014. In a mere three-and-a-half years, the unit has billed \$47,216,267.00 and is pursuing an additional outstanding billed \$18,807,116.00. Taxing bodies have received or will receive \$28,409,151.00 by the end of 2017. The unit is comprised of only eleven people, including just six investigators and it is more than self-sustaining. It values highly my commitment to returning this recovered money to the original taxing bodies and takes great pride in doing so.

The County Commissioners, municipalities, educational institutions, civic groups, homeowners associations and countless religious and other non-governmental organizations know the Cook County Assessor's Office will always collaborate with them. This is a major part of my effort and forms the foundation of everything we do, with the best interests of Cook County and the State of Illinois in mind.

Included with this letter are detailed number of appeals, taxpayer services numbers, outreaches, exemptions processed, and FTE Employee breakdown.

Sincerely,



Joseph Berrios  
Cook County Assessor



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OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR  
COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO 60602

JOSEPH BERRIOS  
ASSESSOR

October 20, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Daley,

To assist in the consideration of our FY 18 Budget your office required the Assessor's office to submit a plan for budget reductions totaling 10% of the President's FY 18 Executive Budget Recommendation.

This has been a difficult process for the Assessor's office and this submission of reductions will create a challenging FY 18 with our upcoming city triennial.

FY 18 Budget	\$27,485,897
10% Reduction	\$ 2,748,590
Adjusted FY 18 Budget	\$24,737,307

Summary of Reductions:

42 vacant FTE	\$ 2,089,739
Postage	\$ 500,000
Office Supplies	\$ 50,000
Membership Fees	\$ 8,851
Professional Services	\$ 100,000
Total	\$ 2,748,590

Sincerely,

Joseph Berrios  
Assessor



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## TOTAL TRIENNIAL APPEALS

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>% INCREASE</u>
NORTH	2013	282,218	50,058	332,276	
	2016	306,913	54,059	360,972	8.64% ↑
SOUTH	2014	198,450	55,535	253,985	
	2017	233,159	57,532	290,691	14.50% ↑
CITY	2012	331,815	65,963	397,778	
	2015	370,879	72,475	443,354	11.46% ↑

NEXT CITY TRIENNIAL PROJECTED 15% INCREASE

CITY	2018	426,511	83,346	509,957
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CASE INCREASE OVER 2017: 219,266

## TAXPAYER SERVICES

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>SUBURBAN</u>	<u>CALLS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	2014	45,493	56,832	132,341	234,666
	2015	50,410	63,843	140,927	255,180
	2016	57,843	70,100	152,417	280,360
OCTOBER	2017	52,768	62,219	*120,197	

\*JANUARY-JULY 31

## **2016 EXEMPTION COUNTS**

HOMEOWNERS	1,048,742
SENIORS	272,189
SENIOR FREEZE	144,899
DISABLED PERSONS	17,383
DISABLED VETERANS	4,564

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TOTAL EXEMPTIONS PROCESSED ANNUALLY: 1,487,777

## **ASSESSOR OFFICE OUTREACHES**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OUTREACHES</u>
2015	85
2016	148
2017	234
2018	260 PROJECTED

## **HISTORY OF FTE**

2010: 398 FTE EMPLOYEES

2017: 275 FTE EMPLOYEES

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123 LESS FTE EMPLOYEES

WITH CUTS WILL BE HELD TO 275 FTE EMPLOYEES WITH 233%  
PROJECTED INCREASE IN APPEAL FILING FOR CITY-TRI

## **ERRONEOUS EXEMPTION UNIT REPORT**

AMNESTY BILLED	\$3,063,088
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AMNESTY COLLECTED	\$2,109,090
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LIENED OR IN COLLECTIONS	\$953,998
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### MARCH 2014 THRU OCTOBER 2017

ERRONEOUS BILLING	\$44,153,179
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COLLECTED	\$26,300,061
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LIENED OR IN COLLECTIONS	\$17,853,118
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PROGRAM TOTAL BILLING	\$47,216,267
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COLLECTED	\$28,409,151
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LIENS OR IN COLLECTIONS	\$18,807,116
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LIENED AS OF OCTOBER 2017:	\$6,895,916
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IN COLLECTIONS:	\$11,911,200
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ERRONEOUS EXEMPTIONS COLLECTED TO TAXING BODIES:	\$28,409,151
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