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NORTH SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE



October 19, 2017

Cook County Board of Commissioners

118 N. Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of all the police chiefs represented by the North Suburban Association Chiefs of Police (NSACOP) covering north and northwest suburban Cook County. As leaders in our communities, one of the most important responsibilities we have is making sure those we serve have what they need to accomplish what must be done.

Recent policy changes within the State's Attorney Office (SAO) have gained the attention of law enforcement leaders throughout Cook County, changes that seem to minimize and almost de-criminalize certain offenses in Cook County. Unfortunately, these policies were implemented without the input of local law enforcement leaders. However, recent meetings with SAO staff has shed some light on current and pending budgetary issues; hence the reason for less attorneys in the courtrooms today and even less if additional cuts are made down the road.

It is sad we live in an era where stories of heinous criminal acts continue to dominate daily news, but even worse during the same news cycle, we hear about budget cuts imposed upon those same agencies empowered and expected to fight the evil that commits such crimes. Currently, the already strapped SAO employs only 767 of the 798 authorized in the current budget. With the 31 less attorneys, local law enforcement and the courts have already felt the negative impact. If the Commission moves forward with the \$13.5 million budget reduction, resulting in the lay-offs of 115 additional attorneys, it would have a devastating impact on Cook County and its residents.

As public servants, we must do everything in our power to serve and protect the people of Cook County. The SAO plays a pivotal role in the criminal justice partnership and without the crucial services they provide, the sanctity of justice would suffer a severe blow. Please reconsider any potential cuts to an already lean SAO budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Stoeckel".

Alan Stoeckel

President / North Suburban Association Chiefs of Police

Chief of Police / Palatine Police Department

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