

# Prospect Heights Police Department

Alan Steffen • Chief of Police

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Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Commissioners,

There is a great concern amongst Cook County Police Chiefs regarding the potential of further budget reductions for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Though we are all experiencing many of the fiscal realities shared by you, the Board of Commissioners, the current climate of crime in Cook County dictates the mission of the State's Attorney's Office to be a crucial element in addressing the ongoing violence as well as the needs of our victims of crime who are ultimately the ones who really pay this price.

It is my observation that the folks in the State's Attorney's office have already taken unprecedented steps to revamp and work within the constraints of an already reduced budget, from shifting prosecutorial duties in certain cases to equally cash strapped municipalities, to the reductions of staff in court rooms, it is my belief further cuts to the State's Attorney's Office budget will ultimately not serve the interests of the citizens of Cook County and in the end will ultimately cost the county much more as the citizens stop receiving the justice to which they're entitled and are victimized a second time as perpetrators of criminal acts slip through ever widening cracks, thus avoiding accountability. If this is allowed to continue and further degrade, the rule of law will eventually wane and the people will potentially be left to their own devices, continuing a cycle of violence which everyone in law enforcement is attempting to break.

We are all faced with impending choices, of what to cut and what to save, and though I do not have a crystal ball, it does not take a fortune teller to see further reductions at the Cook County State's Attorney's office will have a multiplying effect which will have the County Board facing a much greater burden in finding solutions down the road to correct mistakes made as the result of the dollars cut now.

Respectfully Submitted;



Al Steffen  
Chief of Police