

BEDFORD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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October 29, 2017

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns over the potential budget cuts to the State's Attorney's Office (SAO). The Bedford Park Police Department provides police services to our community. We too have worked through financial shortfalls and unexpected major financial impacts. Despite these factors, law enforcement in our community remains vital, especially in the light of escalating violent crime in the greater Chicagoland area. Much of this crime has spread to the outreaches of Cook County.

Partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, including the SAO, ensures our ability to combat crime and prosecute criminals. In recent years, the SAO has greatly reduced the number of State's Attorneys on staff, which has lessened their ability to effectively review and prosecute cases. In fact, prosecution of certain misdemeanor traffic offenses have been transferred to local prosecutors. Any further staff reductions will only exacerbate this problem.

Crime and violence are serious issues for the residents of Cook County. As responsible public servants, we must do all we can to stem the violence and hold criminals accountable. The SAO is a crucial piece of the criminal justice system. Further cuts to the SAO budget will have a direct and negative impact on law enforcement in Cook County, and our residents' safety will be severely diminished. Please reconsider any cuts to the SAO budget.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Godfrey".

Daniel Godfrey
Chief of Police
Village of Bedford Park