



# *Village of Steger*

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

**KEN BOEHM**, *Chief of Police*

October 23, 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). As a member of the law enforcement community and local government, we too have worked through many financial shortfalls and unexpected major financial impacts over the last 8 years. Despite these factors, we have repeatedly overcome these challenges all-be-it with difficulty, but without cutting vital public services. The core services especially law enforcement are vital to maintaining a safe community and holding criminals accountable. There is no denying that crime throughout Cook County has not decreased. Therefore it absolutely necessary to at least maintain any and all service that helps law enforcement enforce State Statutes and holds criminals accountable.

Partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, including the SAO, ensure our ability to combat crime and prosecute criminals. In recent years, the SAO has greatly reduced the number of Assistant State's Attorney's on staff, which has lessened their ability to effectively review and prosecute cases. In fact, prosecutions of certain misdemeanor traffic offenses are no longer being prosecuted. Any further staff reductions will only exacerbate this problem and sends the wrong message to criminals that they will not be prosecuted, thereby undermining the law, law enforcement abilities and community expectations.

Crime and violence are serious issues for all of Cook County residents. As responsible public servants, we must do all we can to stem the violence and hold criminals accountable regardless. The SOA is a crucial component of the criminal justice system. Further cuts to the SOA budget will have a direct and negative impact not only on law enforcement throughout Cook County, but more importantly upon all those we are sworn to serve and protect. The quality of life will further deteriorate within Cook County and further encourage residents to seek residence outside of Cook County. I strongly urge you to reconsider any reductions to the SOA budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Boehm", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ken Boehm  
Chief of Police