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October 24, 2017

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

Dear Commissioners,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my concerns with the proposed Cook County budget cuts and their impact to staffing levels at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

The partnership between the Streamwood Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office has been beneficial to our residents in both prevention and prosecutorial measures. In light of the economic challenges and rising crime we have faced in recent years, we have all been tasked with doing more with less.

While I share these challenges on a more local level, deep staffing reductions are not without sacrifices. Escalating crime, particularly that of a violent nature often jeopardizes the safety of our most vulnerable residents. Our residents and business owners have already been negatively impacted by recent policies limiting and in some cases eliminating the prosecution of certain crimes impacting safety and quality of life issues most concerning to the general public.

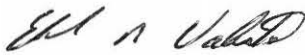
Reducing an already understaffed work force in the CCSAO will have a direct impact on our operations. Fewer ASAs per courtroom will inevitably create a backlog, taking our officers off the street for extended periods of time. When officers are called to testify, this can reduce our patrol staffing by as much as one third.

Further reduction to the felony review unit will only exacerbate an already challenging situation. It is not uncommon for officers and investigators to experience lengthy delays for cases to be reviewed while waiting for an available ASA. Delays such as these place an undue burden on not only police resources but on cooperative witnesses and victims.

Depleting personnel to our already understaffed State's Attorney's Office will only result in increased crime, while negatively impacting resources directed toward proactive measures and service calls to our residents.

I realize that limiting the economic burden on the residents of Cook County, while maintaining high level service is a daunting task. However, I would submit that appropriate staffing in the State's Attorney's Office is not only a fiscally sound decision, but an investment in the quality of life for our residents. In lieu of reducing personnel in critical operations such as the State's Attorney's Office, I would ask that you seek other areas in which to limit economic exposure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed R. Valente".

Edward R. Valente
Chief of Police