

OAK LAWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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November 9, 2017

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns over potential budget cuts to the State's Attorney's Office (SAO). Oak Lawn Police Department provides police service to the Oak Lawn residents and mutual aide to nearby Cook County agencies. We know what it is like to work with reduced budgets and unfunded mandates. Despite these setbacks, we know that law enforcement in our community and those around us, remains vital, especially with the escalating violent crime and terrorist threat to the City of Chicago and neighboring communities.

Partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, including the SAO, ensure our ability to face these criminal elements head-on and prosecute those responsible for such activity. In the past few years the SAO has greatly reduced the number of State's Attorneys on staff, which has reduced their ability to effectively review and prosecute cases. In fact, prosecutions of certain misdemeanor traffic offenses have been transferred to our local prosecutors. Any further staff reductions will only create more issues for all involved.

Crime and violence are serious issues for the residents of Oak Lawn and all residents of Cook County. As responsible public servants, we must do all we can to stem the violence and hold criminals accountable for their actions. The SAO is a crucial piece of the criminal justice system. Further cuts to the SAO budget will directly impact law enforcements ability to protect the residents of Cook County, for which they have entrusted us to do. Please reconsider any further cuts to the SAO budget.

Sincerely,

Randy Palmer
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