

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF



SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

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July 20, 2018

Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee
118 N. Clark Street, Room 3 ½
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Daley:

As you are aware, finalizing fiscal year's 2018 budget was very difficult. The Sheriff's Office's budget was reduced to \$572 million from \$622 million. We met this target by reducing open positions, lowering operating expenses, and unfortunately, laying off employees. These cuts have impacted the operations of the Sheriff's Office – Courts Services deputies are forced to cover multiple courtrooms. The Department of Corrections experienced a loss in a layer of upper level supervision that created additional tasks for current supervisors. The additional tasks create concerns for potential burnout for supervisors. There has also been a decrease in the off-tier programming for detainees. In addition, because the Sheriff's Office had to eliminate sworn police positions and have been unable to hire in the Sheriff's Police Department, the Office has fewer resources to serve and protect the communities of Cook County. Despite these challenges, the Sheriff's Office is currently projecting to stay under appropriation for fiscal year 2018 by continuing to find innovative and cost-saving ways to serve Cook County.

Our fiscal year 2019 budget request exemplifies our continued commitment to meet the demands of our office, the constitutional conditions of confinement at the Cook County Department of Corrections and to protect the residents of Cook County in a fiscally responsible manner. We are doing this hard work despite substantial board-approved increases to collective bargaining agreements that affect over 92% of our employees. We have projected the following increases to our budget due to board-approved increases to the CBAs:

- \$1 million in shift and max security differential
- \$3 million in roll call pay
- \$5 million in sick time buy back pilot

Highlights of the Sheriff's Office fiscal year 2019 budget request and operational strategies demonstrate how we plan to offset these increases:

- Reduction in the overtime account
- Eliminating approximately 75 open positions
- Eliminating 50 leave of absence to other agency positions
- Significantly limiting hiring



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- Reduction in nearly all operating accounts in correlation with lower detainee population
- Utilizing the IVR system to reduce staff and expenses and realize efficiencies in the Medical Call-In Unit and Payroll Department
- Streamlining DOC Records division by repurposing staff on midnight shift
- Hiring Efficiency Specialists dedicated to realizing efficiencies throughout the office
- Developing new, custom e-ticketing initiative, which will reduce costs
- Working with our partner agencies to responsibly close branch courts and consolidate aspects of our Human Resources and Payroll Departments

We fully recognize the economic hardships and challenges facing the County and the State. The Sheriff's Office 2019 budget request demonstrates this office's commitment to fiscal responsibility, innovative leadership, transparency and accountability, and improved services. We remain committed, as always, to working collaboratively to present a fiscally responsible budget while continuing to provide services and security to county and court facilities, administer the Cook County Jail, and protect and serve the citizens of Cook County with policing throughout the county.

Sincerely,



Jill McArdle
Budget Director
Cook County Sheriff's Office

cc: Tanya Anthony, Cook County Budget Director