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JESÚS G. GARCÍA
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October 24, 2018

Honorable John Daley
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark St., Floor 3 ½
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: FY 2019 Budget Hearings

Dear Chairman Daley,

Please find herein questions related to the various departmental hearings that are taking place this week. I look forward to reviewing the written responses.

Questions for the Chief Financial Officer

1. The October 10, 2018 budget presentation raised some questions on the revenue estimates. In the June 19, 2018 Mid-year budget presentation, the Board was presented with the President's estimate of revenue for the FY2019 budget. Specifically, the sales tax revenue for next year was expected to be \$37M over FY2018 budget which took into account the lower State Administrative Fee and the projected revenue increase. In addition, the President stated in June that "Absent Sales Tax growth, General Fund Revenue would decline by \$26M." Thus, in June, the President estimated a modest \$11M increase in FY2019 General Fund Revenues and a FY2019 General Fund gap of \$52.3M.

The Revenue and expense report for the 9 months ending August 31, 2018, showed the combined County Use and County Sales tax receipts \$48.8M over budget (including the \$12.2M Home Rule Accelerated payment which is not guaranteed for next year.) All other fees and non-property taxes were approximately \$14M BELOW budget once the \$11.4M in Sweetened Beverage tax receipts are subtracted.

In the budget presentation last week (October 10, 2018) the expected sales tax revenues will be up 40% (\$17M) to \$52M, general revenues increased by \$34M (for an \$8M increase in 2019 over 2018) so that General Fund Revenues will be up \$56M over FY2018 or \$45M over the Preliminary June estimate. Fortunately, this mostly covers the budget gap identified in the June 19, 2018 presentation but does not seem to agree with the data from the August 31 revenue and Expense report. Given your statement on Monday, October 22 about the real possibility of an economic contraction and a possible stalling of sales tax growth, it is not clear how you came up with the \$56M increase in 2019 General Fund revenues as shown on page 9 of the Budget Briefing presentation.

Can you provide a detailed explanation for the increase in expected revenue between your report to the Board on June 19 and the October 10, 2018 Budget Presentation?

Questions for the Office of the Sheriff

1. Please discuss what your office is doing to provide mental health services both inside the jail and with pre-trial services and post-detention services, if anything.
2. Please discuss how you coordinate and share administrative costs with CCHHS and City of Chicago mental health and outpatient services, if at all.

3. Please indicate where in your budget the costs for those services and programs are located.

Questions for the Cook County Health and Hospital System

1. Please define what staff and expenses are included in County Care Administrative Expenses? How does your 4.6% Administrative cost level (e.g. \$83M out \$1822M) compare to other insurers?

2. What are you doing to improve billing so as to recover more expenses?

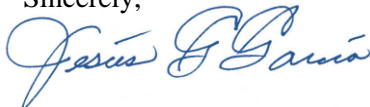
Questions for the Office of the Chief Judge

1. Please identify resources and staff dedicated to alternative dispute resolution in the FY2019 budget and how does that compare to staff and resources in 2017 and 2018. Please indicate where in the FY2019 budget those staff and resources are identified.

2. Please identify resources and staff dedicated to pre-trial services and assisting citizens released under I-Bond in the FY2019 budget and how does that compare to staff and resources in 2017 and 2018. Please indicate where in the FY2019 budget those staff and resources are identified. What services or programs related to pre-trial services and assisting citizens released under I-Bond were reduced or eliminated in 2018 and 2019.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. García
Cook County Commissioner, 7th District