



THOMAS J. DART
Sheriff of Cook County
Richard J. Daley Center
50 Washington Street, Suite 704
Chicago, Illinois 60602

October 19, 2018

Vice President Janice Goldberg
League of Women Voters of Cook County
La Grange Area
332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 634
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Response to email to Commissioner Daley

Vice President Goldberg,

I would like to respond to your email sent to Commissioner Daley on October 12, 2018. Commissioner Daley's office forwarded it to the Cook County Sheriff's Office so that your concerns could be directly responded to. The responses to the questions pertaining to the Sheriff's Electronic Monitoring (EM) program are below. The mission of the Cook County Sheriff's Office EM Unit is to ensure public safety to the residents of Cook County by providing community supervision for offenders that have been court ordered to EM, in lieu of incarceration.

1. Why are there 2 departments that monitor detainees on EM? Why do both the Sheriff's Dept. and the Chief Judge's office have officials that oversee those on EM awaiting trial?

The Sheriff's Office Electronic Monitoring program was created in 1989 to relieve overcrowding in the jail. As indicated above electronic monitoring is an alternative to incarceration for those pre-trial defendants the judiciary has decided requires supervision in the community. The Chief Judge's program monitors probationers and pre-trial defendants. They also have been ordered by the court to have community supervision on electronic monitoring or ordered to GPS monitoring; which is required by State statute under the Cindy Bischoff law for certain domestic violence offenders awaiting trial.

2. How does a defendant end up in one program or the other? Who determines this?

The decision to order defendants on either program solely rests with the judiciary. The Sheriff's Office does not have input on the selection or placement of defendants into either EM program.

3. Why are the conditions of EM so different from one defendant to the other? Restrictions vary widely. How is this equitable? Do detainees always know the nature of these restrictions?

The special conditions of bond are ordered by the judiciary on a case by case basis. The Sheriff's Office clearly explains the program rules and regulations of its program in a brochure and through a program video shown to the participants prior to placement. Program rules and regulations are also accessible on the Sheriff's website (please see link below). Furthermore, program defendants sign a detailed contract explaining each of the rules and are provided a copy of this contract. Each program participant is treated equally unless the program participant has been court ordered to special conditions of bond or are charged with a sex offense or serious violent crime, in which case the defendants are more closely monitored.

Electronic Monitoring Program link: <https://www.cookcountysheriff.org/cook-county-department-of-corrections/electronic-monitoring-program-placement/>

If you should have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 773-674-7964.

Sincerely,



Bradley Curry
Chief Operating Officer
Cook County Sheriff's Office