

COUNTY BUILDING  
118 N. CLARK ST.  
ROOM 667  
CHICAGO, IL 60602  
(312) 603-6386  
(312) 603-9631 FAX



DISTRICT OFFICE  
5003 W. FULLERTON AVE.  
CHICAGO, IL 60639  
312.603.8630

**LUIS ARROYO JR.**  
COMMISSIONER - 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
luis.arroyojr@cookcountyil.gov

October 29, 2018

Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court

Via Email

Dear Judge Evans:

This morning, during the FY2019 Budget Public Hearing, the members of the Board listened to the testimony from a representative of the Chicago News Guild regarding court interpreters. We were made aware of the urgent need to hire more interpreters to achieve proper level of interpreting services for our constituents. The Chicago News Guild suggests the following make-up: 30 full-time Spanish, 7 full-time Polish and 2 full-time Arabic.

After looking at the FY2019 Budget as requested by the Department of Interpreter Services, I see that there are only 30 total interpreters and 14 administrative positions funded, with only 6 of the interpreters being certified. Therefore, I am requesting information regarding the interpreters budgeted for FY2019. Specifically, I would like to know the following:

1. Please provide a breakdown of interpreters currently working full-time by languages.
2. Please provide information on your plans to hire interpreters according to the budget presented, including hiring goal dates and languages to cover.
3. Please provide your plans to adhere to the suggestions made by the Chicago News Guild, including the need to hire more certified interpreters and to fill vacancies with certified interpreters as recommended by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' (AOIC).

Thank you for your prompt attention to his request. Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luis Arroyo Jr.".

Luis Arroyo Jr.  
Cook County Board of Commissioners, 8<sup>th</sup> District

c.c. Hon. John Daley, Chairman of Finance Committee, members of the County Board, and Tanya Anthony, Budget Director.