

Q1

Please provide some basic information

- Witness Name: Patrick Horcher
- Organization (if any): Village of Wheeling
- City/Town: Wheeling
- State: IL
- ZIP: 60090

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyl.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

- County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 4/23/2020 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyl.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

20-2378

Q4

What do you want to do?

- PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT IN FAVOR of a specific item

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyl.gov

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Wheeling, our Police Department, and our Fire Department, we are asking for your support regarding the resolution to "Share Addresses for Emergencies (SAFE)" with our community's Fire Responders. Due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff, along with other communities in the county have tried numerous times to obtain the addresses of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients. This information would be very valuable to our First Responders in order to make sure that they are properly prepared when asked to assist these ill residents. It is also important to be able to inform our mutual aid assistance providers that may be asked to assist our First Responders during this unusual time. The overall health and safety of our First Responders is extremely critical to maintaining adequate emergency service staffing levels in our respective communities during this pandemic. The information we are asking for has been deemed appropriate for release by the Illinois Attorney General, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services (IDHHS). We understand the fears regarding "patient confidentiality" and I can assure you that our First Responders would treat this no differently than other "confidential" medical information obtained daily from the various residents who routinely use our emergency medical services. Our staff would treat this the same as "Private Health Information (PHI)" in accordance with the provisions of the Federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)". Having this information will not guarantee the safety of our First Responders, but rather is another tool to assist our First Responders much like another layer of "Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)". The more layers of protection we can provide our First Responders, the more likely they will remain healthy and be able to continue to serve our community at this critical time. We would appreciate your support on this matter and approve the resolution that is before you at the April 23rd Board of Commissioners meeting.