

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

- Witness Name: Chief Mitchell R. Davis III
- 
- Organization (if any): South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police
  - City/Town: Hazel Crest
  - State: IL
  - ZIP: 64029

## 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@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountylil.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@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountylil.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@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountylil.gov)

I am writing this letter as President of the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police. Our association is the largest regional chief's association in the State of Illinois, and we represent approximately 65 municipalities and agencies in the Chicago Southland area. This correspondence is specifically to address the Cook County Department of Public Health's decision not to release the addresses of confirmed COVID-19 cases to first responders in our respective municipalities. We are all aware of the Office of the Attorney General's opinion and the Illinois Department of Public Health's confirmation that release of this information to first responders is permissible. We are also aware of the decisions that have been made by some counties not to release the information to first responders due to the belief that first responders should be responding to every call cautiously and such information would not provide any added benefit. It is this belief and foundation for decision-making that I would like to address. In theory and in fact, first responders have made tactical and procedural adjustments as to how we respond to calls for service since COVID-19 has arrived. We are also using precautions on every call for service to minimize the likelihood of contamination. While we have made these changes, in reality it is not practical for first responders, specifically police officers, to respond to every call for service in full PPE as would be required for proper protection during contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases. We already give our officers all available intel that we have on dangerous individuals and locations before we dispatch them for service. COVID-19 is a danger that we knowingly have information available on and a conscious decision is being made not to make that information available for dissemination to our officers for their added safety. If an officer is responding to a call of a man with a gun, they are going to have a heightened sense of awareness and readiness. If the dispatcher sending the officer also knowingly had information that the suspect had previously shot and killed officers and did not share that information to warn responding officers, that omission of information could have deadly consequences. Knowingly having information about a possible deadly offender, COVID-19, and not sharing it with those that are responsible for being in proximity to and having to make close quarter physical contact with individuals that are known to be carrying it, to me as a leader is irresponsible. The nature of our profession is to continuously deal with confidential information and this information would be treated with the same

confidentiality and professionalism that we do in all other matters. President Preckwinkle has made it clear that if the Cook County Board of Commissioners approve a resolution requesting that the information be shared with first responders, that she won't oppose it. It is with this important decision coming up at your next meeting that I respectfully ask for your support in this matter. Your first responders have been unwavering in serving their communities. Having this information would be another tool to help increase the likelihood that they and their families remain COVID-free. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely, Chief Mitchell R. Davis III