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John P. Daley
Chairman
Committee on Finance

October 13, 2017

**Commissioner - 11th District
Cook County Board of Commissioners**

Mr. Marc Hamilton
Director
Department of Administrative Hearings
69 W. Washington
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

On Thursday, October 5, 2017, Board item #17-5572 (Executive Budget Recommendation FY18) was referred to the Committee on Finance for consideration. To assist in the consideration of your FY18 budget requires that your office submit to the Finance Committee a plan for budget reductions totaling 10% of the President's FY18 Executive Budget Recommendation for your office. This target is comparable to the reductions target the Department of Budget and Management Services (DBMS) provided your office in July in the event that the Sweetened Beverage Tax could not be collected. As you know, the Sweetened Beverage Tax was repealed by a vote of 15-2 with no independently elected County official coming out in support of the tax. Accordingly, please provide the Finance Committee with your plans -- either revenues and cuts, or both -- that decrease your budget by 10% for FY18. Your submittal will be considered by the Committee at the budget hearings that begin Monday, October 23. The plan your office submits will be the starting point for discussion during your office's budget presentation on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 1:30 pm.

This request is made on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners. The members of the Board seek to work cooperatively with your office to achieve cost savings supported by the public.

We are well aware that this will be a difficult process and believe that the submission of spending reductions is a necessary first step in the process of reaching a balanced budget for the County. The budgetary hearing process will allow you to share your experience and knowledge of your office's operations with the Board.

Please provide a plan for your reductions to the entire Board of Commissioners and a copy to the Director of the Department of Budget and Management Services by Friday, October 20, 2017 to ensure Board members are prepared for your hearing.

Sincerely,

John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee

cc: Toni Preckwinkle, President
Board of Commissioners
Ammar Rizki, Chief Financial Officer
Tanya Anthony, Director, Budget and Management