



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

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November 14, 2022

Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 North Clark Street
Floor 3 ½
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: 2023 Budget – Commissioner Inquiries

Dear Chairman Daley:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the court's responses to inquiries from Commissioners S. Morrison and Gainer during my budget presentation to the Finance Committee on October 26, 2022. The inquiries and the court's responses are outlined below.

1. Commissioner S. Morrison asked for statistics on charges that are ultimately downgraded through pleas for the past year.

Response: Below is a summary of 876 criminal cases that resolved via plea of guilty between January 1, 2021 through October 22, 2022 in which the top filing offense was murder or attempted murder.

Top Felony Charge At Initial Case Filing	Total	Top Charge Category at Pleading					
		Murder	Attempted Murder	Agg. Person Offenses ¹	Other Person Offenses ²	Weapon Offenses ³	Other Offenses ⁴
Murder	333	39	131	126	4	17	16
Attempted Murder	543	51	25	320	15	116	16

1 The Aggravated Person Offenses category includes reckless homicide, agg. battery, agg. assault, agg. criminal sexual assault, agg. kidnapping, armed robbery, agg. robbery, kidnapping, robbery, agg. arson, and offense involving children.

2 The Other Person Offenses category includes Battery.

3 The Weapon category includes agg. discharge of firearm, discharge of firearm, armed violence, armed habitual criminal, agg. unlawful use of a weapon (possession or unlawful use of a weapon).

4 The Other Offenses category includes criminal damage and trespassing to property, manufacture/delivery possession of a controlled substance, motor vehicle offenses, disorderly conduct, offender registration violation, and other miscellaneous offenses.

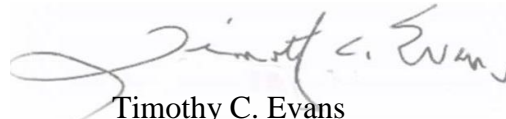
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2. Commissioner Gainer asked for details about the new sexual harassment policies and procedures adopted by OCJ.

Response: In 2019 an employee filed a lawsuit that alleged certain workplace and employment related claims. My office denied the allegations asserted by the plaintiff in that case. Nevertheless, in 2020, the court updated existing policies and implemented strengthened policies, procedures, and training programs to ensure that, when complaints of harassment are received, events such as those alleged do not occur in the future. A copy of the court's updated Non-Discrimination policy is attached with this communication.

Thank you for your interest and support of the court's work for the citizens we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy C. Evans", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

cc:

Honorable Toni R. Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners
Annette Guzman, Budget Director, Department of Budget and Management Services