OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

KIMBERLY M. FOXX
STATE'S ATTORNEY

69 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 3200
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: (312) 603-1880

To: Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*

From: Kimberly Foxx
            Cook County State's Attorney
            Cook County State's Attorney's Office

CC: Annette C.M. Guzman, *Budget Director*
            Department of Budget & Management Services

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Re: Request for Information from FY2021 Mid-Year Budget Hearing

---

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing held on July 20, 2021 to discuss our FY2021 Mid-Year Budget position.

I. Request ID# 1250-03.

Chairman Daley asked, "What are some suggestions to improve the process for filling vacant positions?"

Response:

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office (SAO) is faced with the challenge of attracting talented lawyers as the COVID-19 virus continues to both impact law school admissions and the availability of candidates for these professional opportunities. As a separately elected official, the SAO hiring process exists independent of the County's Bureau of Human Resources. The SAO is working to meet the hiring needs of the Office through several initiatives, including the implementation of a robust recruitment schedule to better align with law school calendars and an expanded geographical recruiting footprint to attract a wider pool of candidates. The SAO is in the process of evaluating electronic application

tracking solutions to enhance our ability to manage resumes and streamline data capture to inform our onboarding process.

II. Request ID # 1250-09.

Commissioner Aguilar asked, "What is the number of people out on bail?".

Response:

Every individual with a pending case, who is not being held in custody pre-trial, is considered "out on bail" until they are sentenced. This includes individuals who may be participating in deferred prosecution (diversion) programs where a case is intentionally continued as individuals are connected to services. The average length of time for a felony case to reach a final disposition in Cook County is **17 months**. We **estimate** the number of pending felony cases in Cook County, as of August 2, 2021, is **between 29,000 and 35,000**. Due to data entry and reconciliation issues, we are unable to report an exact number of pending cases.

The current Cook County jail population as of August 2, 2021 is **6,135**. This number includes individuals who are serving misdemeanor sentences or awaiting transfer to the Illinois Department of Corrections for a felony case and therefore would not be considered on-bail. However, using today's range of pending cases and the total number of individuals in custody, we **estimate** that **between 22,000 and 29,000 cases have individuals out on bail today**. These numbers fluctuate daily as individuals may enter custody due to changes in bond status, an arrest for a new case, or violation of a condition of their bond.

The SAO does not maintain misdemeanor case-level data and cannot speak to the number of individuals out on bail with pending misdemeanor cases.

III. Request ID # 1250-24

Commissioner S. Morrison asked, "As far as staffing, what is the percentage of SAO employees that are actual prosecutors? Of the total number that are attorney's, what is the make-up of those Attorneys that are Criminal Prosecutors, Civil Prosecutors and those in Executive or Management positions?"

Response:

As of July 21, 2021, the total number of active employees was 1241, of which, 748 are attorneys; 749 when including the elected State's Attorney. Additional staffing breakdowns include the following by assignment:

- Within the Criminal Division, 40% or 489 of the active employees in the office are attorneys.

- Within the Civil Division, the total number of attorneys is 102. This also includes the Child Enforcement Division.

- Within the Executive Staff and other organizational management roles, the total number of attorneys is 18.

As always, please let us know if you have any additional questions.