

Robert V. Santana, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Anthony L. McGee  
Vice President

Edward Kern  
Recording Secretary



# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Anthony Falzone  
Trustee

Melissa Molina  
Trustee

Gregory Ortiz  
Trustee

## RAMON D. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

1300 W. Higgins Rd. • Suite 301 • Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 • 847-939-9700

February 10, 2025

Via email to: [Yvette.loizon@cookcountysao.org](mailto:Yvette.loizon@cookcountysao.org); [garvin.ambrose@cookcountysao.org](mailto:garvin.ambrose@cookcountysao.org);  
[Donald.black@cookcountysao.org](mailto:Donald.black@cookcountysao.org); [cristin.duffy@cookcountysao.org](mailto:cristin.duffy@cookcountysao.org); [anna.demacopoulos@cookcountysao.org](mailto:anna.demacopoulos@cookcountysao.org);

Via certified mail to:

State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke  
Office of the Cook County State's Attorney  
69 W. Washington, Ste. 3200  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Madame States Attorney,

On behalf of the Assistant States Attorney employees of the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney, I am writing to formally request that you voluntarily recognize Teamsters Local 700 as the exclusive bargaining representative for the employees in this unit.

A majority of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit have expressed their desire for union representation by signing authorization cards. This demonstrates clear and overwhelming support for unionization and a collective desire to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions.

We remind you of your public pledge to voluntarily recognize the union when a majority of employees demonstrated their support. We fully expect that pledge to be honored in good faith. Voluntary recognition is the most expedient and respectful way to fulfill your commitment to your employees and to foster a productive and collaborative relationship moving forward.

Should you refuse to voluntarily recognize the union, we are prepared to immediately petition the Illinois Labor Relations Board for certification. We are confident that the Workers' Rights Amendment, which passed in 2022 with bipartisan support, provides the legal foundation necessary to secure union recognition for the ASAs, as it supersedes any prior Illinois Supreme Court rulings, including the decision from 1995, with which you are familiar. The belief that the 1995 ILSC case somehow precludes the elected State's Attorney from voluntarily recognizing the bargaining unit, is patently incorrect and respectfully, a gross misinterpretation. The Court clearly and explicitly distinguishes the case from other Assistant State's Attorney unions in the State where the bargaining units were voluntarily recognized.<sup>1</sup>

Further, we have reintroduced legislation (HB2973), which contains language similar to that of SB2371, which as you know, did pass in the House and the Senate, and was simply not recalled for concurrence after amendments were introduced. The bill, in its original form, passed the House and Senate and we expect nothing less than full support in the upcoming legislative session.

<sup>1</sup> *Cook County State's Attorney v. Illinois Local Labor Relations Board* 652 N.E.2d 301 (1995) at 305

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We are prepared to provide the signed authorization cards to an impartial third party for verification, should you request it. Additionally, we remain open to discussing the scope of the bargaining unit to ensure clarity and mutual agreement.

Failure to respond to this request by noon (12:00 p.m.) on Thursday, February 13, will be construed as a denial of our request for voluntary recognition. Please be further advised that we have an outstanding FOIA request seeking information that includes contact information for current ASA, among other things. We understand that the delay in answering the request is likely due to the change in administration, however this request has been outstanding since early January and we would like to reiterate the request, here.

This communication will be provided to all ASAs who have consented to communication from the Teamsters organization, including but not limited to the majority who have signed authorization cards.

We look forward to your response and trust that the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney will honor its commitment to the principles of fairness and respect for its employees' rights. Please contact me so that we might discuss this matter further and schedule our initial bargaining session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Leahy'.

Laura Leahy  
Assistant General Counsel  
Teamsters Local 700

Enclosure