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TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters



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RAMON D. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

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February 15, 2025

Via email to: Yvette.loizon@cookcountysao.org; garvin.ambrose@cookcountysao.org; Donald.black@cookcountysao.org; cristin.duffy@cookcountysao.org; 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

Madame State's Attorney:

I am following up on my letter dated February 10, 2025, in which we formally requested that you voluntarily Teamsters Local 700 as the exclusive bargaining representative for the assistant State's Attorneys (ASAs) in your office. We provided a deadline of noon on Thursday, February 13, 2025, for your response. As of today, we have not received any communication responsive to our request.

Your failure to respond is understood as a denial of our request for voluntary recognition. Accordingly, we will proceed with filing a petition for certification with the Illinois Labor Relations Board on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

We are disappointed, particularly in light of your previous public commitment to recognizing the union when a majority of ASAs demonstrated their support. The ASAs who have dedicated themselves to public service deserve leadership that honors its commitments and engages with them in good faith. Voluntary recognition remains the most efficient and respectful path forward, and we had hoped that your office would uphold the pledge you made during your campaign.

Additionally, we want to remind you that under the Illinois Public Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/10), it is unlawful for an employer to interfere with, restrain, or retaliate against employees for exercising their rights to organize and seek union representation. Any adverse actions taken against Assistant State's Attorneys for their involvement in or support of unionization—including but not limited to demotions, terminations, changes in assignments, or other of forms of retaliation—could result in legal action before the Illinois Labor Relations Board and, if necessary, the courts. We urge your office to ensure that all ASAs can exercise their rights free from any fear of retaliation.

While we are moving forward with the certification process, we remain open to discussions to ensure a smooth and collaborative transition into collective bargaining. If your office wishes to engage in further dialogue before our formal filing, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,

/s/ Laura Leahy
Laura Leahy
Assistant General Counsel
Teamsters Local 700