Law Office of the
COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
69 W. WASHINGTON • 16TH FLOOR • CHICAGO, IL 60602 • (312) 603-0600 (312) 603-9860 (fax)

Amy P. Campanelli • Public Defender

April 15, 2020

Sheriff Thomas Dart
Cook County Sheriff's Office
Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington, Suite 704
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sheriff Dart:

I wholeheartedly agree that we need to do everything we can to protect lives in this time of crisis. Rest assured that the attorneys in my Office are reviewing the cases of each and every one of their clients, identifying those who fall into any of the seven categories of persons who can be released, as reflected by order of Presiding Judge Leroy Martin, Jr., entered on March 23rd. Among those categories are those who are medically vulnerable and elderly.

To have a successful bond review, however, we need more information about these clients to convince the judges who are hearing the motions that our clients' health is at risk and that release is appropriate. We need to know their condition and symptoms, the conditions they are living under at the jail, when and under what circumstances they are in the hospital, whether they need a respirator or ventilator, and whether they are on life support.

In addition, for those persons whose names you are forwarding, we need a letter of support from you or Cermak Health Services, indicating that you endorse a compassionate release of these individuals.

I know you would agree that there is little point in filing a motion that does not contain specific information sufficient to convince a judge that the previously set bond should be changed to an I-bond. Merely stating that someone has tested positive or reciting the number of those infected who are in the jail has not been enough thus far.

Your team working with us have been fantastic, but we need this additional information and letters of support. I hope that I can count on you to provide them. I look forward to your assistance.

Sincerely,

Amy P. Campanelli

Amy P. Campanelli
Public Defender of Cook County