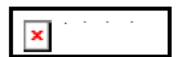
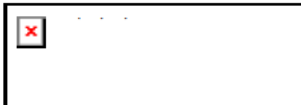


Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:51 AM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

Categories: Green Category

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Formstack Submission For: **PublicComment**

Submitted at 10/14/25 7:50 AM

Meeting Date: 10/14/25

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Cameron Day

Organization: AFSCME Council 31

Address: [REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

**Daytime
Phone:** [REDACTED]

Subject: Support Jail Workers!

Comment: In consideration of the 2026 proposed budget, the sheriff's medical and mental health unit continue to ask for your support. We remain unable to attract and retain employees based on pay and benefits. Our turnover rate over the past several years has remained at approximately 70%.

Several factors influence retention in our department. The acuity in the jail is increasing exponentially. The drug epidemic alone has been an insurmountable challenge now that heroin, cocaine, Xanax, etc. are cut with synthetic substances. The physical, emotional, and cognitive impairments that we are seeing have far surpassed anything we have witnessed in the past. In addition, a substance available at any vape store, often referred to as gas station heroin, has proven to be highly dangerous, especially during withdrawal. Head banging, psychosis, self-directed violence are becoming more common.

We are also seeing patients with chronic diseases remaining in custody more so than ever since the SAFE-T Act, such as those requiring cardiac monitoring, trachs, wound care, and daily dressing changes. Yet, our medical staffing levels have remained the same. When new hires see the low staffing levels and high acuity which increases risk to their license, they quickly move on to hospitals and clinics that offer more attractive pay and incentives. Since COVID, nurses remain in high demand and are highly compensated in other corrections agencies such as Cook County and IDOC, and in hospitals, and clinics.

Similarly, Mental Health clinicians are in high demand since COVID when telepsych behavioral health services were deemed reimbursable by insurance companies. As a result, we have seen many clinicians moving into private practice.

With a retention rate of 30% over several years now, patient care is greatly compromised, which leaves the organization at a continued high risk for litigation. Although the sheriff's office is accredited by NCCHC and ACA, our compliance required corrective action for the past two audits; and unless an auditor refuses hand-picked charts provided by management to review, it remains undetected that the department is not following the standards required by the accrediting body.

Because of the high turnover, the nursing schedule continues to be pieced together day to day, at times leaving one or two nurses on shift for nearly 600 inmates. Further, when there are not adequate mental health staff to monitor mentally ill patients at high risk for serious decompensation, it becomes a recipe for disaster.

In contrast to the medical/mental health department, compensation for deputy staff within the sheriff's department has been competitive for quite some time now which has resulted in high retention. Recently, deputy staff also received a significant market adjustment as a recruitment and retention effort to attract talent in the current climate facing law enforcement professionals. As a female-dominated department in a male-dominated arena, we feel that we have not been given the same opportunities to succeed. In fact, master's level mental health clinicians with years of experience, and nurses with decades of experience, currently earn nearly \$15-25k less than a new deputy straight out of the academy. Further, male psychologists earned

more in 2016 than a female psychologist with several years of experience nearly 10 years later.

The medical department offers equal value and worth but has been under-compensated, undervalued, leaving us feeling completely dismissed as professionals. Even with proposed increases during negotiations, we remain below market value and are told that no comparable salaries exist. Other correctional institutions have increased pay and benefits to ensure coverage based on the litigious nature of corrections. Some agencies that have outsourced are now returning to direct government employment, as third party contractors are using staffing agencies to provide bodies for coverage, often compromising the quality of the candidate hired. The greatest protection from litigation is to be able to control the quality of employees by hiring directly and to offer attractive pay and benefits that will result in a highly qualified and dedicated workforce here at DuPage County.

Our professionals strive to provide the best medical and MH services but are unable to do so with the limited resources our department has experienced over the past several years. We thank you in advance for your support.



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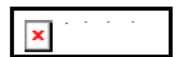
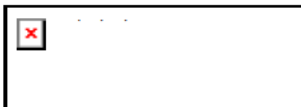
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Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
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Categories: Green Category

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Formstack Submission For: **PublicComment**

Submitted at 10/14/25 9:51 AM

Meeting Date: 10/14/25

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Jesse Gutierrez

Organization:

Address: [Redacted]
West Chicago, IL [Redacted]

**Daytime
Phone:** [Redacted]

Subject: Housing

Comment:

While I applaud the efforts of the Chair to include first time homebuyer incentives as part of the proposed budget, the most immediate problem in the housing industry is the lack of supply. Buyer incentives could have an unwanted effect of driving home prices up due to increased demand. Coming up with incentives for home owners to put their home on the market or

increase home building would be a welcome counterbalance to the home buyer incentives. I hope the Board is exploring options to help with the home supply.



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Blakely, Heidi

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Formstack Submission For: **PublicComment**

Submitted at 10/24/25 9:57 AM

Meeting Date: 10/24/25

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Mary Hobein

Organization: none

Address: [REDACTED]
Woodridge, IL [REDACTED]

**Daytime
Phone:** [REDACTED]

Subject: ICE raids

Comment: Please follow the example of Cook and Will Counties by banning ICE and border patrol agents from County Property. Residents should not be unsafe when accessing services or exercising their rights.

Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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Formstack Submission For: PublicComment
Submitted at 10/27/25 9:59 AM

Meeting Date: 10/27/25

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Kristin McMurray

Organization:

Address:

**Daytime
Phone:**

Subject: Do NOT approve use of tethered drones

Comment:

I urge the board not to approve the use of tethered drones at this time. The deployment of such surveillance tools raises serious concerns about privacy, oversight, and the potential for misuse—particularly when data collection and sharing between agencies are not clearly defined.

Without robust public safeguards, tethered drones risk expanding surveillance in ways that could erode civil liberties and disproportionately impact specific communities. Before any approval is granted, there should be a full, public

accounting of the intended uses, data retention policies, and any cross-agency data sharing agreements.

If this proposal is approved despite these concerns, I strongly request that the agency commit to full transparency regarding how tethered drones are deployed and how footage or data are shared with other local, state, or federal agencies. Regular public reporting, clear usage limitations, and independent oversight should be mandatory to ensure accountability.

Public safety should not come at the cost of public trust. The community deserves to understand exactly how these tools will be used, who will have access to the information they gather, and what safeguards are in place to prevent abuse.

Thank you for considering this comment.



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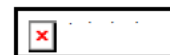
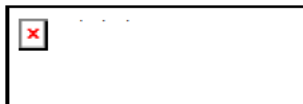
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Blakely, Heidi

From: noreply@formstack.com
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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Formstack Submission For: **PublicComment**

Submitted at 10/27/25 2:22 PM

Meeting Date: 10/28/25

Meeting: DuPage County Board

Name: Allison Herr

Organization:

Address: [REDACTED]
Downers Grove, IL [REDACTED]

**Daytime
Phone:**

Subject: Concerns RE: vote for drone usage for Sheriff Mendrick

Comment:

I'm writing as a concerned resident of DuPage county regarding the vote tomorrow for the usage of a drone for Sheriff Mendrick. There has been no public information outlining how this drone will be used. I have concerns surrounding data privacy, oversight and accountability. (Who will be able to access data from the drone? Will data be shared with outside agencies and vendors? What safeguards will be put in place to protect residents' privacy if drones are approved or later misused?) I'm asking the board to postpone the

vote until there is a clear policy presented to the public so that this is an informed decision. Thank you.



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