



OFFICE OF THE  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY**  
 LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**MICHAEL G. NERHEIM**  
 STATE'S ATTORNEY

January 4, 2018

George Bridges, President  
 Waukegan Park District  
 2000 Belvidere Street  
 Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear Mr. Bridges,

It has recently come to the attention of this office that the members of the Waukegan Park District Board are in violation of the state law making it illegal for volunteer board members to receive compensation.

Current Waukegan Park District policy allows Park District Board members to receive various perks and benefits attendant to their elected positions as board members. Waukegan Park District policy currently allows Park District Board members to receive free rounds of golf at any time (during peak and non-peak hours of operation) at all Waukegan Park District facilities. While State and Federal tax laws do allow employees to receive up to a twenty per cent discount off the fees for golf and other Park District activities during peak hours or complimentary golf or other activities during non-peak hours, it is the position of this office that any additional benefit beyond those mentioned, including the free use of Park District facilities during peak hours resulting in the displacement of Park District revenue by Park District board members is, for purposes of the Illinois Park District Code, properly considered compensation.

Section 1205/4-1 of the Illinois Park District Code specifically prohibits Park Board members from receiving any compensation for their services and the knowing receipt of such compensation violates this state law and provides a basis for potential criminal charges against any public officer acting in violation of this law.

While we believe these current violations to have been unintentional, please allow this letter to serve as notice to the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan Park District Board, and its individual members, that any policy allowing for board members to receive free use of facilities beyond non-peak hours or the allowed twenty per cent discount is in violation of state law and should be discontinued immediately. Furthermore, the benefits attendant to board or staff membership should not and do not extend to individuals who are not board members or employees of the district and should not be extended to or solicited by the public, or by current employees for the benefit of private individuals under penalty of state law.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. NERHEIM  
 LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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 Building**  
 18 N. County St.  
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 Fax (847) 360-1538

**Child Support**

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**Children's Advocacy  
 Center**

123 N. O'Plaine Rd.  
 Gurnee, IL 60031  
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**Civil Division**

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 Waukegan, IL 60085  
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**Felony Division  
 Drug Division  
 Cyber Division  
 Special Investigations**

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**Felony Review Division**  
 Robert H. Babcox  
 Justice Center

20 S. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
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**Juvenile Trial Division**  
 Robert W. Depke  
 Juvenile Justice Complex

24647 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
 Vernon Hills, IL. 60061  
 (847) 377-7850  
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**Misdemeanor Division  
 Traffic Division**

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