



Statement from Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, Chairman, Board of Directors, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

Today’s news means we are one step closer to holding an individual who betrayed the trust of our Agency and of the 23 communities he represented strictly accountable for his actions.

We would like to thank State’s Attorney Alvarez and her team for their professionalism, dedication and their collaboration over the last several months. We will continue to fully support her office’s efforts going forward.

When we learned of alleged wrongdoing by Brooke Beal last October, SWANCC didn’t run from the truth. In fact, SWANCC ran toward it. I am very proud of that fact.

We immediately suspended the now former executive director. We took immediate steps to secure relevant evidence and documents including retention of special counsel and a forensic computer specialist. And, that same day, we notified investigators with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office (CCSAO) and pledged our ongoing assistance.

The former Executive Director is alleged to have violated the trust of our Board of Directors, victimizing our Agency and the communities we represent. We look forward to the evidence being heard in a court of law with an appropriate finding after viewing the evidence.

Further, we support all efforts to recover every penny taken from our Agency and the taxpayers we represent.

Nothing undermines the confidence in the work we do for taxpayers more than allegations of financial impropriety. That’s why SWANCC will continue to support the Cook County State’s Attorney’s efforts to prosecute these crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

We have also looked closely at our own processes and have made necessary, appropriate changes to further tighten internal controls. Our goal is to ensure that we never again fall victim to individuals who choose to game the system and deprive taxpayers of full value of every dollar they are providing to help us deliver on our mission.

SWANCC pledges its ongoing assistance to prosecutors and investigators. In fact, we will be moving aggressively along a parallel, civil track to pursue full restitution. We owe nothing less to our member communities and the taxpayers who support our mission.

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George Van Dusen
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Debby Karton
Vice Chairman,
Board of Directors

James Norris
Secretary/Treasurer,
Board of Directors
Chairman,
Executive Committee

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