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Village of Lincolnshire

Press Release

Update Regarding Lawsuits Related to Economic Development and Worker Empowerment Ordinance

Lincolnshire, IL, November 11, 2016: All elected and appointed officials in Lincolnshire are committed to protecting the rights of all who live and work in the village. To that end, resident may recall in 2015 the Village adopted an Ordinance on Economic Development and Worker Empowerment by Regulation of Involuntary Payroll Deductions for Private Sector Workers. This ordinance makes it illegal to require employees join or pay money to labor unions as a condition of employment.

After this ordinance was passed, labor unions from outside Lincolnshire filed several lawsuits against the village. One lawsuit challenged the ordinance itself, and another wrongly accused the village of violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The village secured pro-bono legal representation to fight these lawsuits so that defending this ordinance would not come at any cost to taxpayers. The legal challenge to the ordinance itself is ongoing. As for the other lawsuit, at an upcoming village board meeting your elected officials will be asked to approve a settlement agreement and change to the village's public comment rules.

The village stands behind this ordinance and protecting workers' rights. We also have pledged to not allow these lawsuits to distract the village from its important work of serving the residents and businesses of Lincolnshire.

The lawsuit wrongly alleging the village of violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act is frivolous, and while it will not cost the village in attorney fees, it is a nuisance and a distraction from the task of making the village a great place for people who live and do business in Lincolnshire. This is why we have decided to approve a \$10,000 settlement to end this frivolous lawsuit. Our pro-bono legal representation has generously agreed to cover the cost of settlement, so it will come at no cost to taxpayers.

As part of the settlement agreement, the village board will also amend its public comment rules for village board meetings. Again, the village did not violate the Illinois Open Meetings Act and did nothing wrong when it passed the ordinance protecting workers' rights; we take very seriously the public's input on village matters. These changes present an opportunity for the village to continue its tradition of open dialogue with constituents while dismissing a frivolous and nuisance lawsuit brought forth by outside groups.

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