



Michael Jones
Chief of Police

May 4, 2017

Jim Page, Director of ILEAS
Skip Frost, ILEAS Special Teams Manager
Steve Neubauer, Chief of Tinley Park, Co-Chair Region 4

Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for Region 4S Mutual Aid Response Team's assistance in a recent major search operation in Matteson on April 24th, 2017. This operation was definitely larger and more daunting than what my agency alone could handle.

In January of 2015, Lincoln Mall was closed per a court order. Over the past two years, the vacant property of over 700,000 square feet has attracted vagrants and wild animals. The interior has become decimated, coated in fire hydrant powder, and littered with broken glass and sharp metal shards throughout. There is no power, and the interior has been open to the elements due to broken skylights. This description does little to accurately paint the picture of the conditions and dangers that were faced by the team.

The Village of Matteson and the court appointed receiver recently appeared before a judge and obtained an order for demolition of the property. However, before demolition begins, my Village Administrator, Brian Mitchell wanted to ensure that there were no persons within the property whose safety would be compromised during demolition. Therefore, a comprehensive search was necessary. It should be noted that locally, there are numerous lengthy missing person investigations in neighboring jurisdictions. This search was also to ensure that these individuals were not within this property.

It was evident early on that my agency was not equipped with the resources to handle an operation of this magnitude, so I contacted Team Commander Terrence Shubert. Commander Shubert was extremely easy to work with, and we drafted a plan. On Monday, April 24th, Commander Shubert's team staged outside of Lincoln Mall. Within a few hours under Commander Shubert's coordination, the team searched every foot of the three floor building, including mechanical rooms, storage rooms, and the roof.

We were able to turn the property over to the demolition team with a sense of ease that the premise was clear of any risk to any person's safety. It is positive to know that a small municipality can call upon the resources of a highly trained team through mutual cooperation to successfully mitigate a large scale problem.

On behalf of Village Administrator Brian Mitchell, we would like to again give great thanks to the Region 4S Mutual Aid Response Team and Commander Shubert's leadership in their assistance with this operation. Without their assistance, my Officers might still be searching the mall!

Sincerely and with Much Appreciation,




Michael Jones
Chief of Police
Matteson Police Department
20500 S. Cicero Ave.
Matteson, IL 60443
Ofc: (708)748-4085
Fax: (708)748-7364