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James Page
ILEAS
Executive Director

Chief/Director/Superintendent:

May 19, 2014

ILEAS values its relationships with private law enforcement agencies. As you know, there are private organizations throughout Illinois that legally employ sworn police officers, certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). ILEAS and ILETSB believe that there are potentially 23 private law enforcement agencies in Illinois and are working together to compile an accurate list. Most of these organizations are private colleges and railroad police. ILEAS is committed to facilitating statewide mutual aid, inter-agency communication, and the sharing of resources among public and private law enforcement agencies.

You may have heard that ILEAS is instituting a set of new law enforcement mutual aid agreements across Illinois. For over the past year, ILEAS has been working with both private counsel and State general counsels to review the mutual aid agreement for improvements that reflect current law. Many improvements were made to the original agreement and the implementation is underway. Over 230 public agencies have signed the new agreement already.

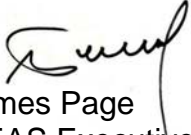
However, one of the major changes in our new approach is the clarification of the legal governance of ILEAS, and its foundation on the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/1 *et seq.*) The Act permits **public** agencies to enter into agreements for things such as mutual aid and to create public oversight bodies such as ILEAS. As a result, only public agencies can sign the new Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (LEMAA). However, private agencies can still participate in the ILEAS statewide mutual aid system.

We have developed a mutual aid agreement specifically for private law enforcement agencies. The Agreement is entitled the "ILEAS Non-Member Affiliate Mutual Aid Agreement." The "non-member" phrase refers to the fact that private entities cannot be part of the governance of the **intergovernmental** entity known as ILEAS. However, they can still participate in the ILEAS statewide mutual aid system by signing an MOU with ILEAS acting as the representative for the public agencies.

The bottom line is that if you are a private entity that legally employs sworn law enforcement officers certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, then you can begin to – or continue – to participate in the ILEAS statewide law enforcement mutual aid system by signing and returning the enclosed agreement. If you qualify, we strongly encourage you to join us so that you have the benefit of mutual aid, receive communications about current issues and have the ability to query the law enforcement resource database for equipment and capabilities from across the State.

Enclosed with this letter are the private mutual aid agreement as described and a brochure that describes the ILEAS mutual aid system, its history and the different agreements. You can use this brochure as a basis for describing what ILEAS is for your management leadership and legal counsel. If you have any questions, please feel to contact me at jpage@ileas.org or Special Projects Manager Mick McAvoy at mmcavoy@ileas.org or at 217-328-3800.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Page", with a stylized flourish extending downwards.

James Page
ILEAS Executive Director