



MC HENRY COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

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From the Office of Joseph J. Tirio, McHenry County Recorder

I reject Chairman Franks' news release and regard it as a bit of disappointing political propaganda.

My fee proposal was prepared with the advice of the State's Attorney's office to comply fully with a confusing and flawed, in my opinion, statute. I have spoken briefly with State Representatives Reick and Skillicorn about doing some work to the statute and intend to continue more serious discussion once the resolution is passed.

It is worth noting that my new fee proposal was ready for consideration to the Finance & Audit Committee earlier this month and Chairman Franks intercepted it and prevented it from being brought to the public where their elected representatives can scrutinize it. I've now been told that it will be considered in September.

It was always my intention, that during this meeting, we could discuss our options on how we address the complicated and related issues of the new fee schedule, next year's budget and the Office's fund balance. Mr. Franks prevented that from happening in a timely fashion. Was that to give him time to fabricate this press release?

So, let's review:

- I tried to bring these issues to light to be discussed by the Finance Committee and the County Board. Jack stymied that attempt.
- Most of Jack's assertions are inaccurate, but could have been clarified with a simple phone call. But of course, correcting the narrative would have interfered with his releasing this inflammatory release.
- Jack's reaction to the claims of a "courageous whistleblower" is to put out a press release with these unsubstantiated allegations. Again, a phone call could have cleared this up.
- Not so long ago, Jack wagged his finger at our office demanding that we lower our Automation fee by 25%, knowing full well that we were in the throes of a fee study already. The new fee schedule has reduced the Automation fund fees by 38%

I look forward to our meeting and discussing the issues at hand and would request that Mr Franks not interfere with the work of the people's elected officials.

Franks' Assertion	Tirio's Response
Tirio has proposed significant increases in recording fees for next year, even after his proposed reduction of the automation fee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The fee schedule was prepared according to state statute, with the guidance of the State's Attorney's office.- On the whole, revenues to the county should not increase- Automation fund fee reduced by 38%

<p>This is nothing more than a shell game designed to perpetuate a broken system in which Tirio can spend without the need for budget line items, and without the County Board’s scrutiny.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am under the same budgetary restrictions and requirement for County board approvals as any other elected official in the County.
<p>Tirio has spent that money to expand the staff of an office that will no longer exist in two years. In his proposed budget, he’s looking to add another full-time employee,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not expanding staff. Have reduced it from 19 to current 16 (and one open position). - The role of “Recorder will not exist, but all the work will remain and staff will be needed - Franks added two patronage hires to an office that never had any staff and did so by sidestepping official processes.
<p>Tirio was recently discovered to have spent automation fund money on expensive private transport to and from the airport, raffle tickets, and a visit to a convention that was held in a casino.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxi to and from airport rather than renting a car. - “Raffle tickets” are to be used during disaster as temporary document numbers. - I have no control over where conventions are held. I don’t gamble.
<p>Furthermore Tirio’s monthly report to the County Board has never included the surplus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My monthly report complies with statute. - The treasurer’s monthly report includes my fund balance.
<p>... given that the fee structure Tirio has proposed for next year includes significant increases for mortgage and lease documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net zero increase in overall fees collected by the office, based on current volumes and document type mix. - The fees for a typical Lease or Mortgage <u>will be exactly the same.</u> (see deck)