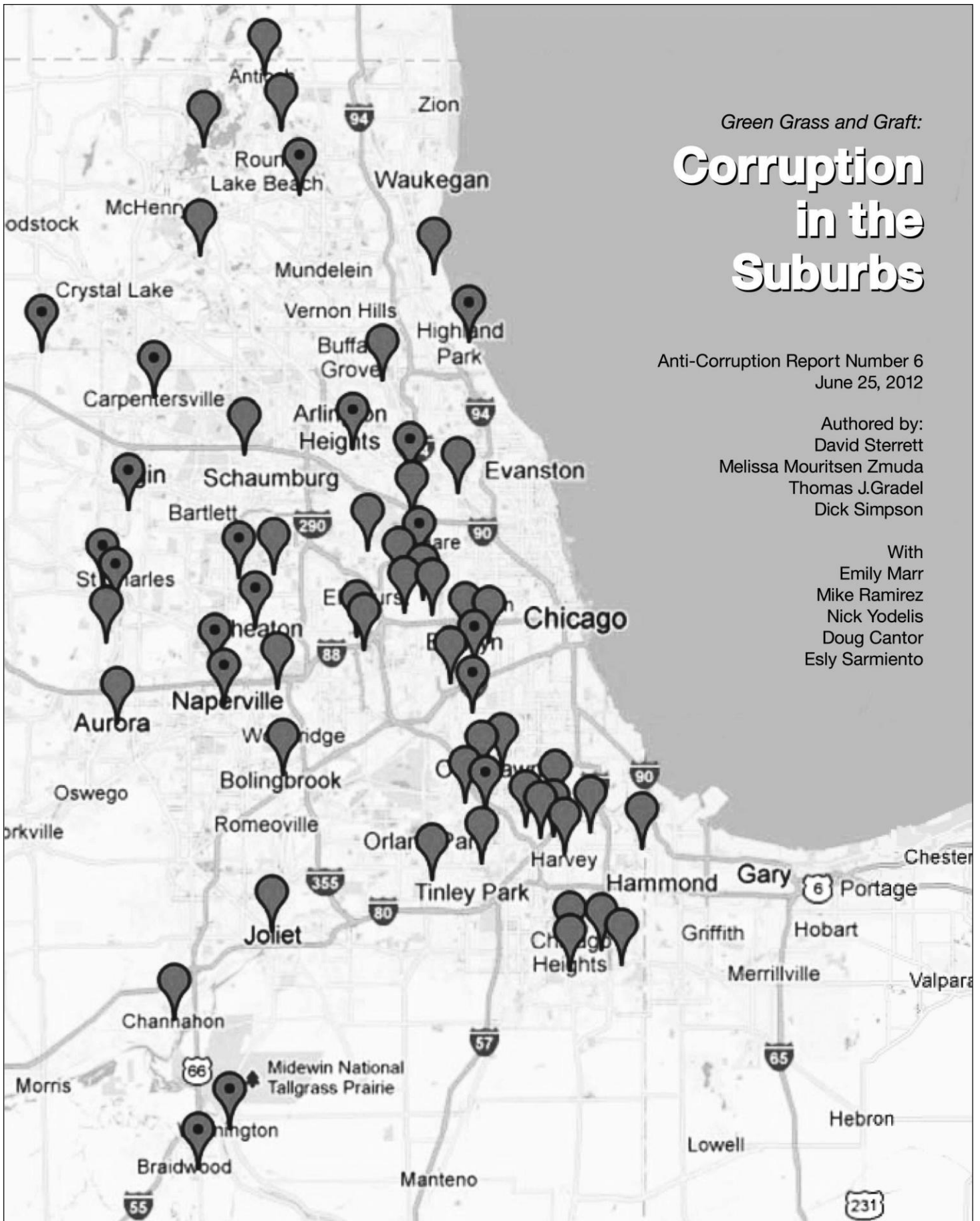


*Green Grass and Graft:*  
**Corruption  
in the  
Suburbs**

Anti-Corruption Report Number 6  
June 25, 2012

Authored by:  
David Sterrett  
Melissa Mouritsen Zmuda  
Thomas J. Gradel  
Dick Simpson

With  
Emily Marr  
Mike Ramirez  
Nick Yodelis  
Doug Cantor  
Esly Sarmiento



The City of Chicago attracts local, national, and even international attention for its long and salient culture of corruption. But the media and the general public tend to overlook the abundant political and public corruption that also exists in many of the region's suburbs. Patronage, nepotism, cronyism, abuse of power and criminal activity flourish, sometimes for decades, in numerous city halls, police stations and special purpose government agencies in suburbs surrounding Chicago and in the collar counties. Public corruption has afflicted the north, south, and west suburbs. It impacts upper income and lower income villages, towns and cities.

More than 130 individuals have been convicted of corruption related schemes in the suburbs since the 1970s, including more than 100 public officials in the last two decades. Far from being an escape from the corrupt practices of the big, bad city, many of the suburbs seem determined to imitate them.

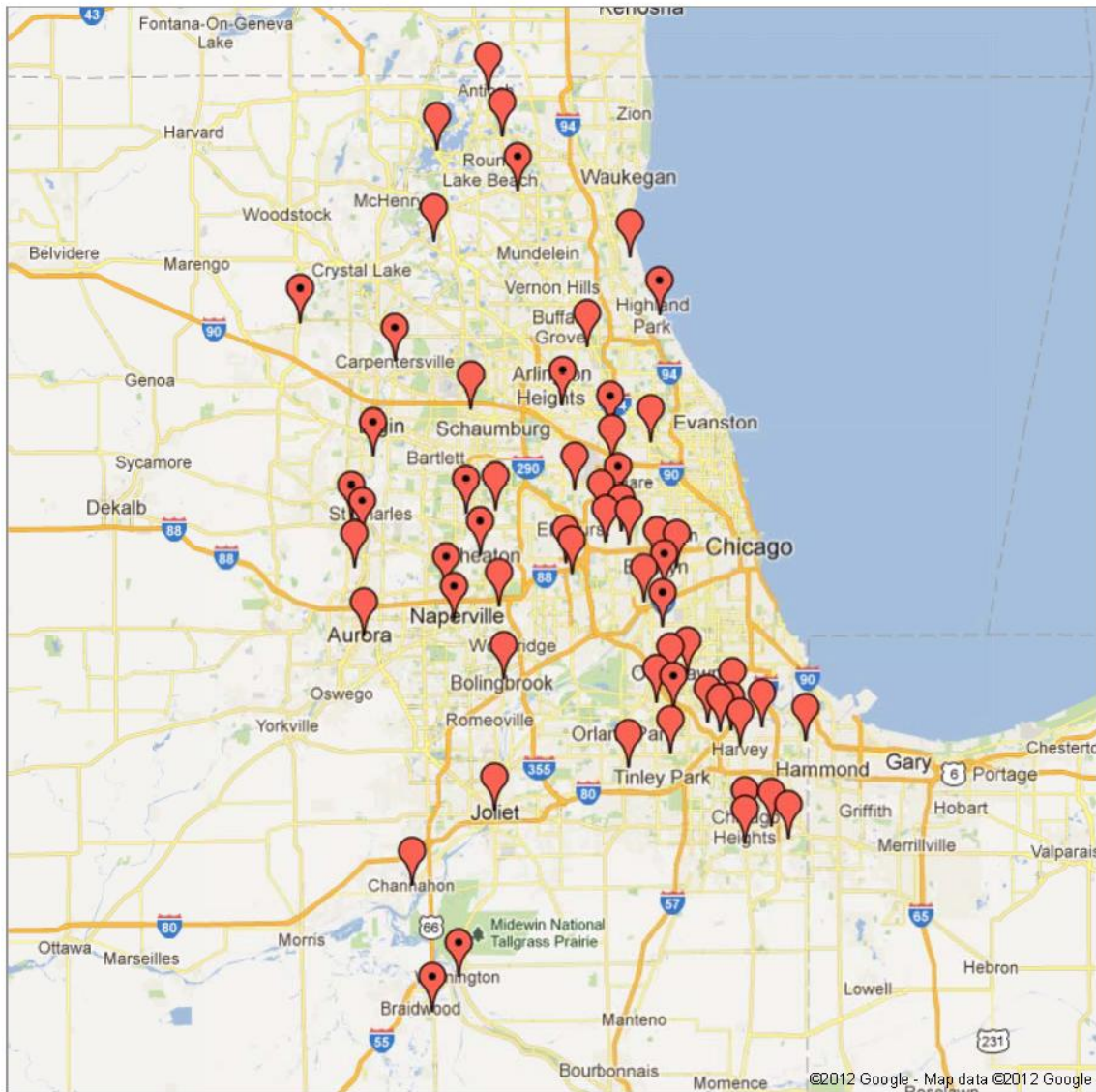
There are six categories of corruption-related convictions in suburban Chicago:

- 1) Public officials with ties to organized crime
- 2) Nepotism
- 3) Police officers aiding or extorting criminals
- 4) Kickbacks and bribes to officials and administrators
- 5) Large Development Projects
- 6) Stealing of funds by leaders of school districts and special purpose districts

This report shows how suburban corruption takes different forms ranging from officials hiring family members to police chiefs protecting criminals. Cumulatively the many examples in this report contradict the common perception that while Chicago is corrupt, the suburbs have clean, open, and effective governments. In fact, corruption impacts a large number of local

governments throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and it has persisted for decades. Understanding these facts is an essential first step to implementing new policies and ethical practices to curb corruption in the suburbs.

### Suburban Corruption Map



This map highlights suburbs where officials have been arrested for corruption or involved in scandals that may not have resulted in arrests. Those with a solid color are cases where

officials have been arrested; those with black dots in the center are suburbs where a scandal took place with no arrests. In total scandals have been documented in 61 suburbs spanning Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will Counties. Table 1 at the end of this report shows a complete list of all scandals. Table 2 shows a list of more than 20 mayors and village presidents that have been convicted of a crime. Table 3 lists the 130 individuals who have been convicted.

### **Links to organized crime**

Several high profile incidents of corruption in suburban Chicago have featured public officials with connections to organized crime. West suburban Cicero illustrates the problems that arise when organized crime corrupts city officials. Organized crime took root in Cicero in the 1920s when Al Capone decided to settle there. During the following decades, attempts to eradicate corruption proved unsuccessful as organized crime maintained a strong presence in Cicero with mob bosses such as Frank “The Enforcer” Nitti and Tony “Big Tuna” Accardo overseeing liquor, gambling and strip joints in the city.<sup>1</sup>

Corruption was so widespread in the 1950s that Cicero officials considered changing the town’s name to improve its reputation.<sup>2</sup> Corruption was apparent again in the 1970s when Cicero’s Deputy Liquor Commissioner Robert Mengler, who had reported ties with organized crime, admitted to taking payoffs for granting liquor licenses to businesses in 1975<sup>3</sup> In 1989 Mengler’s successor at the liquor commission and longtime police force Lieutenant, Steven Bajovich, was convicted of skimming \$50,000 from the commission and attempting to destroy evidence of his crime.<sup>4</sup>

Cicero’s problems with mobbed-up public officials again gained public attention in 1990 when 20 people were indicted for participating in a gambling and extortion scheme. At the time,

authorities called it one of the largest ever crackdowns on Chicago-area organized crime.<sup>5</sup> The investigation centered on mobster Ernest Rocco Infelise and Cicero Town Assessor Frank Maltese. With Infelise's support, Maltese became town assessor and a close associate to Town President Henry Klosak during the 1980s. Maltese then helped his wife, Betty Loren-Maltese, become the chief administrative aide to Klosak. The Malteses helped provide the mob access to city hall and helped shield the mob's criminal activities from police interference.<sup>6</sup> As a result of the federal investigation, Frank Maltese pleaded guilty in 1991 to charges of conspiracy related to gambling. He admitted to serving as a bookmaker for the mob and notifying Infelise of a police raid on a tavern owned by a mobster.<sup>7</sup> Infelise was convicted in 1992 of racketeering and 19 other charges including operating an illegal gambling business, intimidation, extortion and conspiracy to bribe a public official. Prosecutors said Infelise headed a \$9 million a year organized crime operation that controlled gambling and other illicit activities in Cook and Lake counties between 1974 and 1989.<sup>8</sup>

Frank Maltese died of cancer in 1991 before beginning his prison sentence. Nonetheless, organized crime's influence in Cicero continued under the leadership of Betty Loren Maltese who became town president in 1993. In 2002, she was convicted of racketeering, wire fraud and mail fraud for her role in a mob scheme that stole more than \$12 million from the city's insurance fund.<sup>9</sup> Michael Spano Sr., an organized-crime boss, and five others also were convicted for their roles in the scheme that used a company called Specialty Risk Consultants to siphon money from the town. The mob-run insurance firm overcharged and falsely billed the town for employees' health insurance claims.<sup>10</sup> According to authorities Loren-Maltese and co-conspirators lent the stolen money to family and friends, and used it to buy a hotel and golf course in Wisconsin, a horse farm in Indiana, a vacation house and luxury cars.<sup>11</sup>

Corruption associated with organized crime has also surfaced in suburbs such as Northlake, Chicago Heights, Franklin Park and Stone Park. Seymour Sapoznik, who was police chief in Stone Park from 1980 to 1990 and Northlake police chief from 1990 to 1994, pleaded guilty in 1997 to accepting monthly bribes of \$500 from the mob.<sup>12</sup> He pocketed \$24,500 over a four-year period in return for keeping quiet about illegal video gambling operations in Northlake. Likewise, Stone Park Mayor Robert Natale pleaded guilty in 2001 to pocketing \$35,000 in bribes from Chicago mobsters in return for protecting illegal gambling and allowing an adult bookstore in Stone Park.<sup>13</sup> Natale collected \$500 a month for protecting gambling on mob-controlled video poker machines and took a \$4,500 bribe in 1993 to allow an adult bookstore to open.

In Chicago Heights, Finance Commissioner Nick LoBue, pleaded guilty in 1991 to accepting \$50,000 in bribes from south suburban mob boss Albert Tocco for awarding a garbage hauling contract to the mobster's firm.<sup>14</sup> Former Franklin Park Police Officer Robert Urbinati also pleaded guilty in 2002 to taking bribes from the mob in return for ignoring gambling and assisting organized crime.<sup>15</sup>

Federal and state authorities have also accused Rosemont's public officials of having ties with organized crime. In 2005, FBI special agent John Mallul testified that Rosemont Mayor Donald Stephens met with members of organized crime in May of 1999.<sup>16</sup> According to Mallul, Stephens and the mob members discussed the control of construction and contracts for the proposed Emerald Casino in Rosemont. In addition, an April 2004 Illinois Gaming Board memo linked the mob to Rosemont.<sup>17</sup> The memo claimed that Mayor Stephens held Tuesday morning meetings with Nick Boscarino and William Hogan Jr., even after Boscarino was indicted for defrauding the city. Boscarino, who was the sole forklift provider for the Rosemont Convention

center, was later convicted of defrauding the city out of \$300,000 in an insurance scam. Also convicted was his associate, Ralph Aulenta.<sup>18</sup>

Gaming board officials claimed Boscarino had connections to organized crime and that William Hogan Jr. was ousted from the Teamsters because of his mob ties. The memo also asserted that Mark Stephens, Donald Stephens' son, owned part of a temporary labor company with connections to the mob. Rosemont officials said the accusations in the memo were false.<sup>19</sup>

These examples illustrate how the mob's connections to local officials have been a major source of corruption in several Chicago-area suburbs. Mob leaders have traditionally bribed public officials and worked with them to steal government funds. Many of their scams involve public officials allowing the mob to run illegal businesses such as gambling machines in return for bribes or kickbacks. While the mob first established a presence in suburban Chicago in the 1920s, organized crime continues to remain a source of corruption in the twenty-first century.

### **Nepotism**

Nepotism has long been a significant issue in many Chicago suburbs and the village of Rosemont demonstrates how public officials can use their power to enrich friends and family. Donald Stephens served as mayor of Rosemont from 1956 to 2003 and he helped transform Rosemont from a small subdivision into a booming suburb. However, many of the beneficiaries of village contracts under Stephens' administration had business or family connections to the mayor.

In the late 1980s four firms owned by Stephens' relatives received millions of dollars in city business contracts without a competitive bidding process.<sup>20</sup> For example, the mayor's daughter-in-law, Catherine Stephens, was a part owner of two firms – O'Hare Tele-

Communications Inc. and Professional Signs Inc. – that had village contracts to provide services at the Rosemont Exposition Center. Likewise, three firms owned by Stephens’ business associates received more than \$18 million worth of contracts to expand the Rosemont Exposition Center in the 1980s.<sup>21</sup>

Katherine Murphy Interiors Ltd., a firm owned by Mayor Stephens’ wife Katherine Stephens, received more than \$1 million worth of village contracts for interior decorating between 1998 and 2001.<sup>22</sup> In 2000, a company owned by the mayor’s son, Mark, received \$3.8 million for cleaning and supervising the parking at several village properties and facilities. Mark Stephens’ company, Bomark Inc., had similar contracts with the village dating back to the mid-1980s.<sup>23 24</sup>

Nepotism remained as prevalent under Rosemont Mayor Bradley Stephens as it was before his father died in 2007. In 2010, ten members of the Stephens family received a combined \$950,000 from the village.<sup>25</sup> Mayor Stephens received a \$125,000 salary. Donald Stephens II, the brother of Bradley Stephens, received a \$144,885 salary as the police superintendent. His son, Donald Stephens III, received a \$140,613 salary as first deputy police superintendent. The Mayor’s cousin, Christopher Stephens, received a \$193,462 salary as the head of the village’s convention center.

In addition to the Stephens family, several other village employees had ties to Rosemont leaders. Harry Pappas, who was married to village trustee Sharon Pappas, was the highest paid village employee in 2010 with a \$230,000 salary for running the Allstate Arena. City records showed that Rosemont Clerk Deborah Drehobl and village trustees Ralph Di Matteo, Karen Fazio and Jack Hasselberger also all had family members who worked for the village in 2010.<sup>26</sup>



Nepotism has been visible in other Chicago suburbs such as Dolton, Orland Hills, Lyons, Cicero and Waukegan. Former Waukegan Mayor Robert Sabonjian hired his daughter as his administrative assistant in 1985.<sup>27</sup> Dolton Mayor William Shaw hired his twin brother Robert Shaw in 2006 to fill a newly created position of inspector general, which included a \$70,000 annual salary and city car.<sup>28</sup> In Orland Hills, Mayor Kyle Hastings appointed his son, Kyle Hastings II, to a vacant post on the village board in 2010.<sup>29</sup> Likewise, Lyons' Mayor Christopher Getty appointed his father Kenneth Getty --- who had been convicted in 1998 of rigging construction bids when he was mayor --- to the town's planning and zoning board in 2011.<sup>30</sup> In Cicero, Town President Larry Dominick admitted in 2011 to putting more than 20 current and former family members on the town payroll including his mother, sister and wife.<sup>31</sup>

In the suburbs as in Chicago, government positions and contracts worth millions of dollars too often are given to family, friends, and individuals with political clout. This undermines the principles of hiring the best-qualified candidates and giving contracts to companies that will provide the best government services at the lowest cost. Nepotism undermines employee morale as workers learn that promotions and assignments are not based on merit and qualifications. It hinders accountability within city governments because it is difficult for a supervisor to discipline a family member of a top official. Ultimately, nepotism reduces efficiencies, raises the cost of government, leads to higher taxes and lowers the quality of government services.

### **Police Corruption**

Corruption has surfaced too often within police and law enforcement agencies throughout the Chicago suburbs. Since the 1970s, more than 30 suburban law enforcement officers have

been convicted of crimes related to corruption. Many of the convictions involve officers aiding or extorting criminals.

In Chicago Heights, multiple officers have been convicted of helping or extorting drug dealers. Police officers George Werner and George Sintic were convicted in 1992 for money laundering and drug conspiracy.<sup>32</sup> Prosecutors said the men were involved in a decades-long conspiracy that began in the late 1970s when they provided information to a drug dealer about the activities of police and other drug dealers. The officers also bought cocaine from a drug trafficker and sold it to a drug dealer in Chicago Heights.<sup>33</sup>

In a similar case, Chicago Heights Deputy Chief Sam Mangialardi was convicted in 1994 of racketeering, narcotics conspiracy, extortion and theft of government funds.<sup>34</sup> Prosecutors said drug kingpin Otis Moore Jr. paid Mangialardi \$10,000 a month to allow him to operate a cocaine business. They said Mangialardi diverted police from Moore's turf in the Wentworth Gardens Housing Project in Chicago; ordered police to pursue Moore's rivals and kept Moore updated on federal investigations into his drug dealing.<sup>35</sup>

Officers have also been convicted of bribery or extortion in suburbs such as Melrose Park, Harvey and Lyons. In 1990, Lyons police officers Donald Kroft and William Tweeter pleaded guilty to having sex with prostitutes in return for overlooking crimes at a suburban strip joint.<sup>36</sup>

In 1985, the FBI seized records from the Harvey Police Department as part of an investigation into whether officers were stealing cash and drugs seized during raids.<sup>37</sup> In 2008, the FBI raided the Harvey Police Department offices following the federal agency's arrest of four Harvey officers for allegedly providing protection for drug dealers.<sup>38</sup> In Melrose Park, former Police Chief Vito Scavo and two other officers were convicted in 2009 of racketeering

and extortion. During his ten-year stint as chief, Scavo allegedly pressured bars, restaurants, Kiddieland, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and other businesses to hire his private security companies.<sup>39</sup>

Dispensing police powers has also been a source of corruption. In 1997 the Village of Dolton began a deputy marshal program to back up the police department. The mayor of Dolton handed out 18 badges to private citizens who were also authorized to carry guns, though none of these individuals have ever been called to service.<sup>40</sup> Three of those given badges were later convicted on drug charges, and at least one said he purchased the badge for \$30,000 - 40,000.<sup>41</sup> In 2003, Harvey Mayor Eric Kellogg gave out a number of such badges, resulting in several arrests and convictions when a number of deputy marshals abused their police powers.<sup>42</sup>

Where the mob has not infiltrated a suburb, drug kingpins and vice purveyors have too often been able to bribe police who have been willing accomplices in their nefarious schemes. Sometimes it is the issuance of police powers by mayors that leads to similar outcomes. Police corruption is more widespread in the suburbs than usually recognized. Drugs, prostitution and other illicit activities provide sources of corruption for some suburban police forces.

### **Bribery and Kickbacks**

Many elected officials and top government bureaucrats in suburban Chicago have been convicted of using their authority to solicit bribes from business and individuals. A corruption scandal in the middle-class suburb of Niles illustrates how elected officials can use their positions to enrich themselves. Nicolas Blasé served as a mayor of Niles for 47 years until resigned in 2008 under the pressure of federal corruption charges. That year Blasé pleaded guilty for his role in a kickback scheme that involved him steering local businesses to a friend's

insurance company.<sup>43</sup> Prosecutors said Blasé pocketed more than \$420,000 over three decades in return for pressuring businesses to use Ralph Weiner and Associates as their insurance broker.<sup>44</sup> And according to a recent investigation, Blasé also handed out about a half of a million dollars' worth of perks for six retiring or retired village employees. These perks came in the form of retirement bonuses, village cars and cash payments authorized by Blasé, and apparently not approved by the Village Board at an official meeting, which may be a violation of Illinois Open Meetings Act.<sup>45</sup>

Top officials in suburbs such as Chicago Heights, Calumet City, Oak Forest and Fox Lake also have been convicted of taking kickbacks. In 1985, former Fox Lake Mayor Richard Hamm pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and racketeering for receiving more than \$26,000 in bribes in exchange for granting village contracts, approving liquor licenses and overlooking the installation of gambling machines.<sup>46</sup>

Charles Panici, Mayor of Chicago Heights from 1975 to 1991, was convicted in 1993 on charges of racketeering and extortion. He helped extort more than \$600,000 in kickbacks from a dozen businesses in return for city contracts during his tenure.<sup>47</sup>

In 2001, Calumet City Mayor Jerry Genova was convicted of racketeering, mail fraud, bribery and official misconduct.<sup>48</sup> He accepted about \$125,000 in kickbacks from a law firm handling the city's legal business.<sup>49</sup> In addition, prosecutors said he had city workers make improvements to property he owned. The city employees also campaigned for him and his allies in return for time off.<sup>50</sup>

In Oak Forest, Michael Feeley, the public works superintendent, was convicted in 2004 of receiving more than \$300,000 in bribes from businesses in return for city contracts.<sup>51</sup>

Elected officials also have been convicted for accepting money in return for helping businesses receive approval for development projects in suburbs such as Lyons, Berwyn and Hoffman Estates. In the 1970s, former Hoffman Estates Mayor Roy Jenkins and four other village officials pleaded guilty on corruption related charges for accepting kickbacks from a representative of homebuilder Kaufman & Broad, Inc. in return for approving zoning changes.<sup>52</sup>

Lyons Village President Kenneth Getty was convicted in 1998 of theft and money laundering for his role in a bid-rigging scheme involving two public works projects.<sup>53</sup> Prosecutors said Getty and two other co-conspirators received more than \$179,000 in kickbacks from the scheme.<sup>54</sup>

In Berwyn, Samuel “Sonny” Stillo, the assistant mayor and a former Berwyn alderman, pleaded guilty in 2006 to offering a \$1,000 bribe to an alderman to help a developer buy city-owned land.<sup>55</sup>

If bribes aren’t forthcoming, some official take advantage of whatever is available. In 1987, Arlington Heights Treasurer Lee Poder was arrested for using \$20 million in fire department pension funds to buy and sell securities, keeping profits for himself but passing along the losses to the village.<sup>56</sup>

Bribery and kickbacks have been a source of corruption in southern, western and northern suburbs, and cash payments for official action have affected both upper class and lower-income cities. Both long-time elected officials and professional bureaucrats have been convicted of using their positions to solicit bribes and kickbacks. Many suburban officials have used their power over city contracts and services to enrich themselves. Bribery and kickbacks raise the cost of services for taxpayers and corrupt the local decision-making process. And when under-the-table cash is not sufficient, there are till-skimming scams, which are just as detrimental.

## **Big Economic Developments**

The lure of big developments in suburbs has also been a source not only of potential corruption but massive conflicts of interest, and not just in Rosemont. A recent *Chicago Tribune* exposé of Bridgeview cites the suburb's total debt at \$230 million - a \$196.4 million increase from the year 2000 – making it by far the largest debt burden of any suburb.<sup>57</sup> A town of only 16,446 residents, this amounts to almost \$14,000 for every man, woman and child residing in Bridgeview. This has caused Standard & Poor's to down grade its credit rating to near-junk status.<sup>58</sup>

This money was used mainly to build Toyota Park, home to the Chicago Fire, a professional men's soccer team, and a concert venue. But it was the mayor's friends and associates who were getting contracts to build and maintain the park. Among those receiving contracts were the town's financial advisor, Austin Meade; the mayor's brother, owner of P.B. Food Products; and Mayor Stephen Landek's former company, Eco-Chem. The mayor had ownership transferred to his girlfriend or his nephew while the stadium was being built. Also favored with a contract was CDK Accounting, which rents office space from a building the mayor owns.<sup>59</sup> Since the project was proposed, Mayor Landek received \$170,000 in political contributions from Toyota Park contractors and vendors.<sup>60</sup>

Mayor Landek has other conflicts of interest in Bridgeview. He was recently appointed to replace retiring State Senator Louis Viverito. He now chairs the Lyons township political fund, after resigning about a year ago as Lyons Township Supervisor, and he was previously the highway supervisor.<sup>61</sup> Mayor Landek holds or has recently held multiple government jobs, which

have allowed him to influence decisions and to provide many benefits for family, friends, and contributors.

When suburbs undertake large economic development projects, they frequently result in campaign contributions to the politicians who control them. Nepotism and favoritism, and conflicts of interests often play a major role in the letting of construction and business service contracts. Cost overruns and unnecessary spending accumulate. Taxpayers often find that they must foot the bill for hundreds of millions of dollars and massive increases in their taxes as happened in Bridgeview.

### **Schools and Special Purpose Districts**

Corruption has affected a number of suburban school districts and special purpose districts. A former park district in the small south suburb of Dixmoor illustrates how corruption can impact special purpose agencies that often receive little public attention. Two major corruption scandals rocked the Dixmoor Park District before it disbanded in 1998. Bobby Jackson, a former Dixmoor Park District trustee, pleaded guilty in 1998 to stealing \$100,000 from the agency.<sup>62</sup> The money collected from property taxes was supposed to be used to pay off construction bonds for a recreation center that was never built. Instead, Jackson spent the stolen money on a political campaign and shared it with political allies.<sup>63</sup> Prosecutors said Jackson and two former Dixmoor Park District trustees -- Bonita Wright and Parnell Jackson -- stole \$500,000 of taxpayer funds.<sup>64</sup> All three were convicted. The district never operated recreation programs and only oversaw one tot lot. However, state officials estimate the park district had amassed more than \$1.6 million in bond issues, loans and tax levies.<sup>65</sup>

Corruption also tainted the Dixmoor Park District Police Department. The District's former chief and another officer pleaded guilty in 2001 to extortion for selling police badges to businessmen.<sup>66</sup> Under former chief James Parks, the number of officers in the department responsible for patrolling a single park rose from 11 to more than 80 because of the badge selling.<sup>67</sup> Prosecutors said many of the people who bought badges had no interest in being cops. They were construction and security workers who paid between \$1,000 and \$2,500 for the ability to carry a gun and display a badge.<sup>68</sup>

Officials working for special purpose districts have also been accused or convicted of corruption related charges in suburbs such as Batavia, Posen and Maywood. Ellen Shadwick, the former Batavia Main Street director, pleaded guilty to theft in March 2004 after being accused of stealing \$48,000 from the downtown revitalization group.<sup>69</sup> Former Posen Park District Treasurer Donald Jacobs pleaded guilty in August 2010 to theft of government property. He stole \$260,000 in public funds, and used park district money to pay his credit cards and mortgage payments.<sup>70</sup>

In 2011 former head of the Maywood Housing Authority, Gwendolyn Robinson, was indicted on charges of stealing \$404,655 while serving as the department's executive director between July of 2006 and November of 2009. She allegedly funneled housing vouchers into a hidden account that she used to pay the mortgage on her Elmhurst home.<sup>71</sup> Her trial was pending at the time of publication.

Educational leaders from a variety of districts have also been convicted of stealing public funds. Richard Francetic, a senior vice president for business affairs at Triton College, plead guilty in 1985 to embezzling about \$2,500 from the community college in River Grove.<sup>72</sup> Anthony Torres, the former Bellwood School District 88 superintendent, pleaded guilty to



embezzlement in 1996. He stole more than \$200,000 from the district as checks that were supposed to have been made payable to the district went into his personal bank account.<sup>73</sup>

Allen J. Klingenberg, the former head of Morton High School District, was convicted in 1993 of submitting \$3,900 worth of false expense vouchers,<sup>74</sup> and Janet Thomas, former President of Harvey District 152 I, was convicted in 2004 for defrauding a college financial aid program.<sup>75</sup>

Because school districts and special purpose agencies often receive less public scrutiny than city governments, public and political corruption can go undetected for years. It remains a problem with all these public organizations. Officials running school districts and special purpose agencies sometimes steal public funds and engage in corruption schemes similar to those that plague the larger cities.

### **Ending Suburban Corruption**

There needs to be a comprehensive approach to fix the culture of corruption evident in many of the Chicago's suburbs. Voters, prosecutors, state leaders, suburban public officials, good-government groups and educational institutions can all take steps to reduce corruption in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The obvious and potentially most effective method for dealing with corrupt officeholders would be to elect new public officials dedicated to ethical behavior and governmental reform. Such candidates, if elected, can help change the culture of corruption in these suburbs. Voters should support candidates committed to fighting corruption.

The governor and state legislature could also address the problems of suburban corruption. The state legislature could create a Suburban Inspector General to oversee the

suburbs of Chicago. Alternatively, each county could create a Suburban Inspector General's Office or a Suburban Inspector General could be created voluntarily by suburban governments that enter into an Intergovernmental Compact and agree to contribute .1% of their budget to fund the office. The Inspector General could report issues of corruption to the Attorney General for investigation by a statewide grand jury and then to be prosecuted if warranted. A Suburban Inspector General could help deter public officials from taking corrupt actions, and could help publicize the problems of corruption. Currently, the only deterrent to suburban corruption seems to be prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's office, which has limited resources and can only investigate possible violations of federal law. Since there are more than 1200 separate units of government in the Chicago metropolitan region, there are too many jurisdictions and officials for the U.S. Attorney adequately to police. However, the Suburban Inspector General must have the power to self-initiate investigation and have the independence to investigate corruption aggressively.

Suburban governments should increase transparency to hold government officials accountable for the decisions they make on the job. Access to information can help combat corruption in suburbs. Greater transparency can deter police misconduct and can discourage officials from only awarding contracts to the politically connected firms. It can give a sense of clean and efficient government to their respected towns.

One form of transparency is for local governments to provide information on government decisions, expenditures, and government contracts on a government web site for individual citizens and local organizations to monitor. Local governments, or a Suburban Inspector General if one is created, should also set up a phone hotline and Internet site so constituents can report suspected waste or corrupt acts by government officials. If they experience police shakedowns

or government officials attempting to extort them, they would have a way to report it anonymously without having to worry about retaliation.

Suburbs can take swift and decisive action to mitigate the effects of corruption when confronted with problems. For example, leaders of suburban Des Plaines took a number of steps to stem corruption in the last decade as the city pursued a casino license.<sup>76</sup> Concerns about corruption arose after it was discovered that former Assistant City Manager William Schneider might have had an illicit relationship with Jim Dvorak --- a convicted felon accused of having connections to the mob. Dvorak, a former Cook County undersheriff, was associated with two firms doing business with Des Plaines.<sup>77</sup> After the relationship between Schneider and Dvorak attracted public attention in 2004, Schneider resigned from his city post. Des Plaines also spent \$215,000 to terminate a contract with a marketing firm linked to Dvorak because Schneider had renewed the contract without the necessary approval from the city council.<sup>78</sup> The city cut all ties to Dvorak, and city leaders, including Mayor Anthony Arredia, voluntarily met with federal investigators in 2004 to provide information about the possible illegal relationship between Schneider and Dvorak.<sup>79</sup> Following the incident with Schneider and Dvorak, Des Plaines bolstered its ethics laws to attempt to prevent corruption.<sup>80</sup> In 2007, the city created a new ethics officer position designed to serve as an ombudsman for citizen complaints. The council passed a law establishing a fine for aldermen who do not turn in their economic disclosure forms on time.<sup>81</sup> Des Plaines' response to concerns about the relationship between Schneider and Dvorak illustrate a few of the ways suburbs can mitigate corruption.

Of course, it is possible to pass laws to limit campaign contributions from contractors, outlaw nepotism in government appointments, limit patronage, and require an honest process for letting contracts.

Finally, all suburban officials need ethics training. This could be achieved by requiring them to take the ethics training currently provided by the state of Illinois to state public employees. While it will not prevent all corruption, a better understanding of the laws on conflicts of interest, contract procedures, and court decisions will increase ethical conduct by many government officials.

Suburban corruption is so endemic that there is no magical or quick solution. One starting point is to recognize that corruption is not just a Chicago problem. The culture of corruption is an Illinois problem. While some individual suburbs may be exempt from this epidemic, many are not. Suburbanites must recognize the problem and demand reforms by both local and state government.

A first step is to recognize that if more than 60 suburbs have corruption and blatant conflicts of interest, then it is necessary to take steps to eliminate this corruption. It is estimated that corruption in Illinois is costing taxpayers at least \$500 million dollars a year and, possibly, much more. In a time of economic recession and government cut backs in services, it would seem essential to eliminate this waste. The Illinois Ethics Reform Commission, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Ethics Reform Task Force, and our previous reports have provided a list of the steps that need to be taken at every level to change the culture of corruption. What is needed is the will to act.

## ENDNOTES

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**TABLE 1  
SUBURBAN CORRUPTION BY TOWN**

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>Antioch</b>	High school teacher convicted of computer tampering	2/24/2012	<i>AP Wire</i>
	Village administrator convicted of perjury and forgery	8/8/2002	<i>News Sun</i>
<b>Aurora</b>	Councilman pleads guilty to mail fraud in bribery scheme	4/29/2010	<i>Aurora Beacon News</i>
<b>Batavia</b>	MainStreet director pleads guilty to theft of funds	3/13/2004	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Bedford Park</b>	Policeman bribed, part of Greylord investigation	9/29/1988	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Two fireman terminated for breach of ethics	9/2/2005	<i>Daily Southtown</i>
<b>Bellwood</b>	Proviso school superintendent convicted of embezzlement	12/25/1996	<i>West Proviso Herald</i>
	Police officer pleads guilty to racketeering and extortion	12/18/2001	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Bensenville</b>	Investigation by village attorney into an unlicensed, unregistered security firm being openly run out of police department - ultimately twenty offers resign and one convicted	8/3/2000	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Berwyn</b>	Assistant mayor/former alderman convicted of racketeering	5/21/2006	<i>Northwest Herald</i>
	Police officer convicted of racketeering conspiracy and conspiring to obstruct justice	4/27/2010	<i>Berwyn Life</i>
	Police officer convicted of conspiring to obstruct justice	7/22/2010	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Bolingbrook</b>	Two former building and fleet supervisors plead guilty to filing false income tax returns and mail fraud	1/17/2008	<i>Naperville Reporter</i>
<b>Braidwood</b>	Officer resigns after misconduct found, no charges filed	10/25/2001	<i>Joliet Herald-News</i>
<b>Bridgeview</b>	Multiple conflicts of interest	6/10/2012	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Calumet City</b>	Mayor found guilty of racketeering, mail fraud and theft of funds	8/27/2001	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	City Prosecutor found guilty of racketeering, mail fraud, theft of funds	8/28/2001	<i>Beacon News</i>
	Head of public works found guilty of racketeering and theft of funds	8/28/2001	<i>Beacon News</i>
<b>Calumet Park</b>	Village attorney convicted of theft of government funds in excess of \$100,000	9/12/2011	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Carol Stream</b>	Police officer resigns amid allegations he tipped off a colleague on an investigation	11/21/2006	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Carpentersville</b>	Police sergeant suspended for fixing ticket	8/30/1995	<i>Daily Herald</i>
	Police officer suspended for removing tickets	7/18/1996	<i>Elgin Courier-News</i>



<b>Channahon</b>	Mayor convicted of failing to file IRS returns and misuse of campaign funds	10/26/2011	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Chicago Heights</b>	City administrator and director of economic development found guilty of failing to report bribes as income	11/17/1990	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Director of public works pleads guilty to tax evasion for accepting bribes	6/29/1991	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Finance commissioner found guilty of extortion and accepting bribes	7/3/1991	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Mayor and two city council members convicted of racketeering, extortion and bribery	2/23/1993	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Four police officers convicted of drug conspiracy, money laundering and/or fabricating evidence (see also 2/26 and 3/18 articles)	1/22/1993	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Deputy police chief found guilty of racketeering, extortion, narcotics conspiracy	7/6/1995	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Chicago Ridge</b>	Corruption scandal in 1975 sends all village officials to jail except the village clerk	3/31/2005	<i>Daily Southtown</i>
<b>Cicero</b>	Deputy liquor commissioner found guilty of accepting bribes for licenses	10/5/1989	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Deputy liquor commissioner & police lieutenant guilty of failing to report skimmed fees and destroying evidence	10/5/1989	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Town president convicted of racketeering, embezzlement	8/24/2002	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Public safety director guilty of wire and mail fraud and racketeering conspiracy	8/24/2002	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Crestwood</b>	Two village officials face trials in August of 2012 for supplementing Lake Michigan water with that of a tainted well	4/29/2012	<i>Southtown Star</i>
<b>Des Plaines</b>	City fires marketing firm, after ties to ex-Cook county undersheriff discovered, same individual who helped secure billboard deal	8/25/2002	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Dixmoor</b>	Park district board president found guilty of conspiracy to commit theft, theft and money laundering	2/27/1998	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Park district board member pleaded guilty to official misconduct	8/24/1999	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Second president and second member also guilty	8/24/1999	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Police chief pleads guilty to accepting bribes	11/15/2001	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Dolton</b>	Deputy marshal pleaded guilty to drug smuggling	4/26/2002	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Two deputy marshals and a police officer found guilty of drug conspiracy and smuggling	3/9/2005	<i>Daily Southtown</i>
<b>Ford Heights</b>	Cook County takes over policing functions due to severe misconduct	11/2/1996	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>

	Police officer pleads guilty to bribery, five more later convicted	1/4/1997	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Five more police officers convicted of bribery	6/23/1999	<i>Beacon News</i>
<b>Fox Lake</b>	Mayor convicted of conspiracy, racketeering and extortion	5/24/1985	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Franklin Park</b>	Police officer pleads guilty to racketeering, conspiracy, conducting an illegal gambling business and obstruction	2/20/2002	<i>Melrose Park Herald</i>
<b>Geneva</b>	Street Superintendent fired after being accused of theft and embezzlement, trial pending	4/10/2012	<i>Kane County Chronicle</i>
<b>Glendale Heights</b>	Village president pleads guilty to income tax evasion	11/17/1990	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Grayslake</b>	Two college administrators fired for using spy cameras to get information from employees	3/25/1999	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Harvey</b>	FBI raids Harvey police department for misconduct	2/10/1985	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	School district president found guilty of defrauding college aid program	5/13/2004	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Police detective found guilty of misconduct, unlawful sale of firearm	8/11/2006	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Assistant park district director pleaded guilty to wire fraud	9/13/2008	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	FBI raids Harvey police department after four officers arrested for providing protection to drug dealers	12/6/2008	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Police officer pleads guilty to drug running, providing security to drug dealers	5/11/2010	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Deputy marshal program under scrutiny as to who is getting badges	1/15/2011	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Highland Park</b>	Park district superintendent and commissioners resign after pension scandal	12/30/2010	<i>Highland Park News</i>
<b>Hoffman Estates</b>	Two former village presidents convicted of bribery, conspiracy, and filing false income tax returns	12/19/1973	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Two village trustees pled guilty to extorting bribes and accepting bribes for zoning changes, conspiracy and tax charges	1/5/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Third trustee pleads guilty to accepting bribes for zoning changes, conspiracy and tax charges	1/16/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Huntley</b>	Police chief fired over alleged misconduct, no charges filed	3/24/1995	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Island Lake</b>	School administrator found guilty of obstruction of justice for falsifying time records	11/1/2011	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Joliet</b>	Fire chief convicted of exploitation on elderly - his two successors also leave amid scandal	8/21/2004	<i>Joliet Herald-News</i>

	Tourism bureau director resigns after city council discovers he budgeted \$300,000 for a six-month sabbatical to study walking trails in Europe	3/29/2005	<i>Joliet Herald-News</i>
	Tourism bureau director's successor accused of receiving financial compensation from promoters; office is shut down	3/29/2005	<i>Joliet Herald-News</i>
<b>Lake Forest</b>	Principal fired for abusing paid leave	6/4/1993	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Superintendent convicted of official misconduct	10/24/1993	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Lake Villa</b>	PTO treasurer convicted of stealing money from PTO	8/31/2007	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Lisle</b>	Park district director plead guilty to misdemeanor theft	10/24/2000	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Lyons</b>	Two police officers plead guilty to racketeering conspiracy and interstate wire fraud	3/3/1990	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Mayor and village architect guilty of rigging bids on two construction projects	10/28/1998	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Safety supervisor found guilty of taking payoffs	8/10/2002	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Maywood</b>	Park district police officer found guilty of taking bribes and selling police badges	10/11/2001	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	Head of housing authority awaiting trial for theft of government funds, embezzlement	7/28/2011	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Melrose Park</b>	Village attorney pleads guilty to income tax evasion	12/4/1999	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Mayor found guilty of extortion	12/9/1999	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Deputy police chief pleads guilty to theft of funds	3/16/2005	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
	FBI raids police department amid security firm scandal	9/9/2005	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Police officer pleads guilty to extortion in security firm scandal	7/20/2007	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Streets and sanitation worker found guilty of witness tampering	4/29/2009	<i>Proviso Herald</i>
	Police chief found guilty of extortion and racketeering in security firm scandal	6/2/2009	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Supervisor of part time police found guilty of conspiracy and mail fraud in security firm scandal	7/30/2009	<i>Franklin Park Herald</i>
	Part time police officer found guilty in security firm scandal	7/30/2009	<i>Elm Leaves</i>
	Police commander/school board member guilty of obstruction and witness tampering	12/16/2009	<i>Elm Leaves</i>
<b>Mount Prospect</b>	Village settles several lawsuits over claims of racial profiling in the police department	3/5/2000	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>

<b>Naperville</b>	Park district settles with former director who resigns after allegations of bid rigging and questionable spending	5/30/2004	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Niles</b>	Mayor pleads guilty to mail fraud and tax evasion in insurance kickback scheme	11/1/2008	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Northlake</b>	Police chief pleads guilty to accepting bribes	5/5/1999	<i>Maywood Herald</i>
<b>Oak Brook</b>	Village paid \$2 million settlement stemming from a lawsuit filed by a couple accusing a police officer of stealing their email identity	3/29/2007	<i>The Doings</i>
<b>Oak Forest</b>	Public works supervisor plead guilty to racketeering and tax fraud	11/14/2005	<i>The Star</i>
<b>Oak Lawn</b>	Police officer plead guilty to official misconduct; shakedowns	9/3/2008	<i>Southtown Star</i>
<b>Oakbrook Terrace</b>	Zoning administrator pleads guilty to extortion and tax fraud	2/19/1994	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Orland Hills</b>	Mayor (Westhaven) convicted of extortion	4/25/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Trustees ordered to reimburse village for questionable items charged to village debit cards	12/7/2006	<i>The Star</i>
	Investigation into office holders with multiple jobs/pensions	2007 report	<i>BGA</i>
<b>Palos Heights</b>	Thirteenth village official indicted for corruption	5/22/1994	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Posen</b>	Mayor pleads guilty to theft of funds	8/27/1997	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Park treasurer pleads guilty as part of Operation Cookie Jar	8/4/2010	<i>Southtown Star</i>
<b>Robbins</b>	Mayor pleads guilty to failing to follow tax returns	9/18/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Rosemont</b>	Mayor's business partner found guilty of money laundering, conspiracy and filing false tax returns	8/24/2002	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Co-schemer with above found guilty of money laundering, tax fraud	1/22/2004	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Mayor's business partner found guilty of perjury	4/1/2004	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Investigation reveals ten members of the Stephens family receiving close to a million dollars in pay from village	8/31/2011	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>St. Charles</b>	City settles wrongful termination lawsuit of police chief who alleged he was terminated after accusing the city and investigating corruption	12/20/2005	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Sauk Village</b>	District superintendent pleads guilty to theft of funds	11/24/2005	<i>The Star</i>
	School board president pleads guilty to fraud	2/25/2006	<i>Daily Southtown</i>
<b>South Chicago Heights</b>	Mayor pleads guilty to conspiring to extort \$250,000 from owner of firm holding garbage collection and landfill contracts in Chicago Heights	4/24/1991	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
<b>Stickney</b>	Public works manager steps down after BGA investigation revealed that he and other repeatedly used taxpayer-funded cars improperly	7/15/2006	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>

	Whistleblower/former cop wins multimillion dollar lawsuit after being run out for exposing corruption	8/16/2006	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>South Elgin</b>	Police officer was suspended for obtaining excessive background checks for personal use, put on leave for excessive force; resigned	1/6/2000	<i>Daily Herald</i>
<b>Warrenville</b>	Alderman convicted of felony theft by deception and theft	10/2/2010	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Wheaton</b>	Charges were dropped on an officer accused of shoplifting who resigned as a result	1/13/2009	<i>Naperville Sun</i>
<b>Wheeling</b>	Trustee pleads guilty to extortion	5/18/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Trustee pleads guilty to steering business	6/25/1974	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>
	Mayor pleads guilty to tax evasion	10/12/1994	<i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
<b>Wilmington</b>	Officer fired for insubordination and improper use of departmental resources	6/23/2007	<i>Joliet Herald-News</i>

**TABLE 2**  
**Suburban Mayors and Village Presidents Convicted of Corruption**

Name	Suburb	Date Convicted	Description
Roy Jenkins*	Hoffman Estates	12/18/1973	Pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery, bribery, and filing false income tax returns
Edward Pinger*	Hoffman Estates	12/18/1973	Pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery, bribery, and filing false income tax returns
Curtis Whitaker	Westhaven (Orland Hills)	4/24/1974	Found guilty of extortion for threatening to block home construction from a property owner
Ernest Maxey	Robbins	9/17/1974	Pleaded guilty, convicted of failing to file income tax returns for 1967 and 1968
Joseph Armondo	Fox Lake	1/1/1977	Pleaded guilty to charges that he failed to report \$6,000 on his 1970 income tax return
Richard Hamm	Fox Lake	5/1/1985	Pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of racketeering
Jeri Sullivan	Glendale Heights	11/17/1990	Pleaded guilty to income tax evasion stemming from village construction contracts
Donald Prisco	South Chicago Heights	4/24/1991	Pleaded guilty to extortion of \$250,000 from owner of firm holding garbage and landfill contracts in Chicago Heights
Charles Panici	Chicago Heights	2/22/1993	Found guilty of racketeering, extortion and bribery for taking more than \$600,000 in kickbacks from businesses
Richard Sarallo	Oakbrook Terrace	10/11/1994	Pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion, related to bribery and kickbacks
James Adamek, Jr.	Posen	8/26/1997	Pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$180,000 from the town
Kenneth Getty	Lyons	10/27/1998	Found guilty of theft and money laundering for rigging bids on two village projects in return for kickbacks
C. August Taddeo	Melrose Park	12/9/1999	Pleaded guilty to extorting thousands of dollars from the village attorney in return for keeping him on staff
Jerry Genova	Calumet City	8/27/2001	Found guilty of racketeering, mail fraud and theft of funds for accepting \$125,000 in kickbacks from law firm
Robert Natale	Stone Park	1/11/2002	Pleaded guilty to taking \$35,000 in bribes from the mob to allow video poker and adult bookstore
Betty Loren-Maltese	Cicero	8/23/2002	Found guilty of racketeering and embezzlement for her role in a mob scheme that stole \$12 million from city
Nicholas Blasé	Niles	10/31/2008	Pleaded guilty to tax evasion and wire fraud as he pocketed more than \$420,000 in a kickback scheme
Joseph Cook	Channahon	10/23/2011	Pleaded guilty to failing to file IRS returns and using \$2,000 of campaign funds for personal expenses

\*Roy Jenkins was mayor from 1965 – 1969 and Edward Pinger was mayor from 1959-1965 and were convicted in the same scandal in 1973 over the development of Barrington Square.

**TABLE 3**  
**Roster of Officials and Others Convicted of Public Corruption**

\* = missing information

Year	Mo	Day	First Name	Last Name	Title/Position	Suburb/County	Notes	Citations
1997	8	26	James	Adamek Jr.	Mayor	Posen	Plead guilty to stealing more than \$180,000 from town	Chicago Tribune, Aug 27 1997.
1977	*	*	Joseph	Armondo	Mayor	Fox Lake	Pleaded no contest to tax evasion	Chicago Tribune, May 24, 1985
2004	1	22	Ralph	Aulenta	Insurance broker, co-schemer with Boscarino	Rosemont	Plead guilty to money laundering, tax fraud in scheme to steal Rosemont insurance premiums	Chicago Tribune, January 22, 2004
1989	10	4	Steven	Bajovich	Deputy Liquor Com & Police Lieutenant	Cicero	Pleaded guilty to failing to report to IRS skimming liquor license fees & destroying evidence	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 5, 1989
1987	5	7	Robert	Balitewicz	Lake County Bailiff	Lake County	Plead guilty to fixing a drunk driving ticket	Indiana Post-Tribune, May 8, 1987
1985	9	7	Rudy	Bartolomei	Lake County Sheriff	Lake County	Convicted of extortion while serving as a Sheriff in 1985	The Chicago Tribune, September 7, 1985
2007	8	30	Sallyanne	Bennes	Treasurer	Lake Villa PTO	Plead guilty; theft of funds	Daily Herald (Arlington Heights) August 31, 2007
2008	10	31	Nicholas	Blase	Mayor	Niles	plead guilty to tax evasion and wire fraud	Chicago Sun-Times, November 1, 2008
2004	1	*	Nick	Boscarino	Buisness Partner to Mayor Stephens	Rosemont	Found guilty of money laundering, conspiracy, filing false tax returns	Chicago Tribune, May 19, 2005
1998	6	8	Odell	Boxley	Police Officer	Ford Heights	Plead guilty to taking bribes	Chicago Tribune, June 9, 1998
1995	11	16	Barbara	Bringle	Exec. Dir. Cicero Mental Health Ctr	Cook County, Cicero	Pleaded guilty to fraud	Chicago Tribune, Nov. 17, 1995.
1998	*	*	Shirely	Brown	Park District Board Member	Dixmoor	Pleaded guilty to theft, conspiracy, money laundering	Chicago Sun-Times September 28, 1999

1988	1	19	Rudy	Byron	Lake County Commissioner's aide, former county inspector	Lake County	Pleaded guilty to charges that he concealed payments of \$50,000 from the scheme on his income tax returns of 1983, 1984, and 1985	The Chicago Tribune, January 20, 1988
2009	7	24	Michael "Mickey"	Caliendo	Supervisor of Part-time Police Officers	Melrose Park	Found guilty of conspiracy and mail fraud in scheme to use police officers for private security	Franklin Park Herald-Journal , July 30, 2009
2005	2	?	James	Caputo	Deputy Police Chief	Melrose Park	Pleaded guilty to stealing \$36,000 in checks for Melrose Park from ADT Security Services	Proviso Herald, May 1, 2009; Aug. 1, 2007; Chicago Sun-Times, March 16, 2005
2010	1	22	German	Cepeda	Part-time Police Officer	Melrose Park	Pleaded guilty to extortion for forcing establishments to hire the Police Chief's private security firm	Chicago SunTimes, Jan 22, 2010
2009	7	29	Guy "Ric"	Cervone	Police Comander & School Bd Member	Melrose Park	Pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and witness tampering	Elm Leaves, Dec. 16, 2009 Also 7-30-09
1990	11	16	Joseph	Christofanelli	Director of Economic Development	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty on one count of failing ot report bribes as income	Chicago Sun-Times, Nov. 17, 1990
2011	10	23	Joseph	Cook	Mayor	Channahon, Ill	Pleaded guilty to failing to file IRS returns and using \$2,000 of campaign funds for personal expenses	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 26, 2011
2007	*	*	Mario	Dal Cerro	Streets & Sanitation worker	Melrose Park	Plead guilty; witness tampering	Proviso Herald, April 24, 2009
1998	6	8	Jack	Davis	Acting Chief of Police	Ford Heights	Found guilty of taking bribes	Chicago Tribune, June 9, 1998
2001	11		Louis	Disotuar	Police officer	Bellwood	plead guilty to racketeering and extortion	Daily Herald 12/18/01
1990	11	16	Enrico	Dogget	City Administrator	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty to two counts of failing to report bribes as income	Chicago Sun-Times, Nov. 17, 1990
2007	*	*	Joseph	Drick	Fire Chief	Joliet	Pleaded guilty to defrauding	Pantagraph, Dec 13, 2007



2009	8	12	Hollis	Durrough	Police Detective	Harvey	Found Guilty; two counts official misconduct, unlawful sale of firearm	Chicago Sun-Times. August 11, 2006.
2005	11	10	Michael	Feeley	Public Works Superintendent	Oak Forest	Plead guilty to racketeering and tax fraud charges	The Star. November 14 2005
1998	10	27	Peter	Fernandez III	Construction contractor	Lyons	Found guilty rigging bids on two village construction projects	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 28, 1998
1998	10	27	Peter N.	Fernandez Jr.	Village Architect	Lyons	Found guilty rigging bids on two village construction projects	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 28, 1998
2008	6	4	Scott	Fitts	Police Chief	Grant Park, IL	Charged: wire fraud, lying to feds, income tax evasion, illegal structuring of financial transactions	Chicago Tribune, Jun. 5, 2008
2010	4	15	James	Formato	police officer	Berwyn	plead guilty to racketeering conspiracy and conspiring to obstruct justice	Berwyn Life April 27, 2010
1985	5	23	Richard	Francetic	Triton College Senior Vice President	Triton College	Pleaded guilty to an embezzlement charge	The Chicago Tribune, May 29, 1985
2001	8	27	Jerry	Genova	Mayor	Calumet City	Found guilty of racketeering, mail fraud and theft of funds	Chicago Sun-Times, Aug 27, 2001
1985	5	*	Richard	Gerretsen	Village Board member	Fox Lake	bribery	Chicago Tribune, May 24, 1985
1998	10	27	Kenneth	Getty	Mayor of Lyons	Lyons	Found guilty rigging bids on two village construction projects	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 28, 1998
2012	2	24	Sara	Glashagel	Teacher - Community High School	Antioch	Pleaded guilty to computer tampering, she used an administrative password to inflate grades for 64 students, 41 of them football player, her husband was football coach	Associated Press State Wire, February 25, 2012
1993	2	22	John	Gliottoni Jr.	City Council Member	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty, convicted of extortion, racketeering, and racketeering conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Feb 23, 1993
2001	8	27	Lawrence	Gulotta	City Prosecutor	Calumet City	Found guilty; six counts of racketeering, theft of funds, mail fraud	The Beacon News, Aug. 28, 2001
1998	6	8	Kerwin	Hall	Police Officer	Ford Heights	Plead guilty to taking bribes	Chicago Tribune, June 9, 1998

2010	10	1	Christopher	Halley	Alderman	Warrenville	Pleaded guilty to felony theft by deception. Helped steal thousands of dollars on bogus deal for sports tickets	Chicago Tribune, Oct 1, 2010
1985	5	*	Richard	Hamm	Mayor Fox Lake	Fox Lake	Pleaded guilty to chone count of conspiracy and one count of racketeering	The Chicago Tribune, May 24, 1985
2008	9	2	Steven	Harrison	Oak Lawn Police Officer	Oak Lawn	Plead guilty to official misconduct, accused of shaking down immigrant motorists	SouthtownStar. Sep 3 2008
1974	6	24	William	Hart	Wheeling Trustee 1967-1970	Wheeling	Pleaded guilty to using influence in Wheeling to deter business from using other signing companies in the suburbs besides his own	Chicago Tribune, June 25, 1974
2008	9	9	Linda	Hudson	Assistant Director, Harvey Park District	Harvey	Plead guilty; wire fraud for misuse of public funds	Morris Daily Herald, Sep 10 2008
1999	*	*	Vincent Taran	Hunter	Police Officer	Ford Heights	Plead guilty to taking bribes for fixing criminal cases	Chicago Tribune, Nov 19, 1999
2011	10	31	Sharon	Hyde	Director of Island Lake preschool	Island Lake	Pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice for falsifying time records for the number of hours she worked	Daily Herald, November 1, 2011
2002	3	28	James	Inendino	Cicero mobster	Cicero	Found guilty: of bribery, tax evasion, money laundering, and theft. Also involved in Hired Trucks	Chicago Tribune, Mar. 29, 2002
1994	2	18	Nicolae	Ionescu	Zoning Administrator, Oakbrook Terrace	Oakbrook Terrace	Pleaded guilty to extortion of \$10,000 and tax fraud	Chicago Tribune, Feb. 19, 1994
1999	8	23	Parnell	Jackson	Dixmoor Park District Board Member	Dixmoor	Plead guilty to official misconduct	Chicago Sun-Times August 24, 1999
1998	6	3	Bobby	Jackson	Dixmoor Park District Board President	Dixmoor	Plead guilty to official misconduct	Chicago Sun-Times August 24, 1999
2006	6	23	Albert	Jackson	Kane County Sheriff's Department	Kane County	Pleaded guilty for stealing paper and plastic products from county jail	Daily Herald, March 11, 2006.
2010	8	3	Donald	Jacobs	Posen Park District Treasurer	Posen	Plead guilty	Southtown Star, August 4, 2010

1987	12	18	Michael	Jankovich	Lake County assessor	Lake County	Convicted of soliciting and accepting payoffs. He was ordered to forfeit \$11,700 in bribe money he collected in scheme.	The Chicago Tribune, December 19, 1987
1973	12	18	Roy	Jenkins	Mayor, Hoffman Estates	Hoffman Estates	Pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery, bribery, and filing false income tax returns	Chicago Tribune, Dec 19, 1973
1998	6	8	Keith	Jones	Police Officer	Ford Heights	Pleaded guilty to racketeering	Chicago Tribune, June 9, 1998
2006	*	*	Melvin	Jones	Police Officer, Dolton	Dolton	Found guilty; drug distribution conspiracy	Daily Southtown March 9, 2005
1997	10	*	Dale	Jones	Police Officer	Ford Heights	Plead guilty to taking bribes	Chicago Tribune, June 9, 1998
2007	2	*	Clifford	Josefik	Oakbrook based developer	Berwyn	Plead guilty; bribery	Chicago Sun-Times, June 9, 2007.
2011	*	*	Edward	Kabella	Lake County sheriff's officer	Lake County	Used their positions to buy 74 fully automatic machine guns and selling them on the internet.	Chicago Sun-Times, September 22, 2011
1994	10	18	William	Klaas	Highway Comm, Addison Township	Addison Township	Pleaded guilty to 1 count of mail fraud	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 13, 1994 ; Oct. 18, 1994.
1993	10	22	Allen	Klingenberg	Superintendent Lake Forest schools	Lake Forest and Morton Grove	He was guilty of submitting \$1,015 worth of false expense vouchers to Morton	Chicago Sun-Times, October 24, 1993
1990	5		Donald	Kroft	Lyons Police Officer	Lyons	Plead guilty to accepting sexual favors from prostitutes for overlooking vice crimes	Chicago Sun Times March 3, 1990
2011	*	*	Joseph	Kumstar	Lake County sheriff's officer	Lake County	Used their positions to buy 74 fully automatic machine guns and selling them on the internet.	Chicago Sun-Times, September 22, 2011
1991	7	3	Nick	LoBue	Finance Commissioner, Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty to extortion of \$250,000 and accepting bribes	Chicago Tribune, July 3, 1991
2002	8	23	Bonnie	LaGiglio	John LaGiglio's wife	Cicero	Found guilty of tax conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Aug 24, 2002

2003	1	27	John	LaGiglio	Controlled SRC insurance firm that defrauded the town	Cicero	Found guilty of racketeering, wire mail fraud, bank fraud, money laundering and tax conspiracy	Chicago Sun-Times, Jan 28, 2003
2002	8	23	Betty	Loren-Maltese	Cicero Town President	Cicero	Found guilty of racketeering and embezzlement	Chicago Tribune, Aug. 24, 2002
1996	*	*	James	Louch Sr.	Will County building inspector	Will County	Pleaded guilty and indicted on 10 felony counts of bribery and official misconduct	Chicago Tribune, August, 1, 1996
1995	7	5	Sam	Mangialardi	Deputy Police Chief, Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	Found guilty of racketeering, narcotics conspiracy, and extortion	Chicago Sun-Times, Jul. 6, 1995
2004	3	31	Irving	Mangurten	Accountant, business partner with Mayor Stephens	Rosemont	Pleaded guilty to perjury for lying during trial of Nick Boscarino, mob associate and casino investor	Chicago Tribune, April 1, 2004
1998	*	*	Kevin	Mattison	Park District Trustee	Dixmoor	Pleaded guilty to theft, conspiracy, money laundering	Chicago Tribune, Feb 27, 1998.
1993	2	22	Louise	Marshall	City Council Member	Chicago Heights	Found guilty, convicted of extortion, racketeering, and racketeering conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Feb 23, 1993
1974	9	17	Ernest	Maxey	Mayor of Robbins	Robbins, IL	Pleaded guilty, convicted of failing to file income tax returns for 1967 and 1968	Chicago Tribune, Sept. 18, 1974
2011	9	12	Mark	McCombs	Attorney hired by village	Calumet Park	plead guilty to theft of government funds in excess of \$100,000	Sun Times September 12, 2011
2005	5		Jim	Meisch	City Council Member	Aurora	Pleaded guilty to mail fraud in May 2005 as part of an FBI probe into a bribery scheme involving a Montgomery developer.	Aurora Beacon News, April 29, 2010
1975	*	*	Robert	Mengler	Deputy Liquor Comm, Police Lieutenant	Cicero	Pleaded guilty to taking payoffs for liquor licences	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 5, 1989
1974	1	15	Gerard	Meyer	Hoffman Estates Trustee	Hoffman Estates	Pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for zoning changes, conspiracy, and tax charges	Chicago Tribune, Jan. 16, 1974
2005	11	*	Christopher	Millet	Deputy Marshal	Dolton	Found guilty; drug distribution conspiracy	Daily Southtown, Mar 9, 2005 & Pacer info

1990	4		Michael	Mokol	Lake County Chief of Police	Lake County	Convicted of racketeering, gambling, and conspiracy in connection with the alleged payment of bribes totaling \$33,000 while Rudy Bartolomei was serving as sheriff from 1983 to 1985	The Chicago Tribune, April 26, 1990
1991	6	28	Ernest	Molyneaux	Director of Public Works, Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty, convicted of evading taxes on \$36,700 in bribes from contractors	Chicago Tribune, Jun. 29, 1991
2008	6	11	Aidan	Monahan	President, Monahan Construction	Arlington Heights	Pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud	Chicago Tribune, June 12, 2008
2007	7	20	Gary	Montino	Deputy Police Chief, Melrose Park	Melrose Park	Convicted, mail fraud and racketeering hiring out on-duty police officers for private security	Chicago Tribune, Jul 20, 2007
2006	2	24	Louise	Morales	School Board President	Sauk Village	plead guilty to fraud	Daily Southtown, February 25, 2006
2002	1	11	Robert	Natale	Mayor	Stone Park	Pleaded guilty, took bribes from mob to allow video poker	Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 13, 2002
1986	1	*	Arthur	Newell	Lake County Board of Health President	Fox Lake	Extortion of Lake County	Chicago Sun-Times, January 24, 1986.
1973	12	18	Howard	Noble	Trustee	Hoffman Estates	Pleaded guilty to charges to conspiracy to extort bribes	Chicago Tribune, Jan. 5, 1974
2000	10	20	Kim	Paetschow	Park District.	Lisle	Pleading guilty to misdemeanor theft, tearfully admitted to stealing from the district she led for seven years	Daily Herald, October 24, 2000
1993	2	22	Charles	Panici	Mayor	Chicago Heights	Guilty of federal charges of racketeering, extortion and bribery.	Chicago Tribune, Feb. 23, 1993
2001	7	20	Willie	Parker	Park District Officer	Dixmoor	Plead guilty to taking bribes	Chicago Sun-Times, Oct 11, 2001
2001	7	18	James	Parks	Park District Police Chief	Dixmoor	Plead guilty to taking bribes	Chicago Tribune, Nov 15, 2001
2008	9	12	Kendall	Parrott	Director, Park District	Harvey	Parrott	Chicago Tribune, June 12, 2009

2009	9	25	Julius	Patterson	President, Park District	Harvey	Patterson	Chicago Tribune, June 12, 2009
1973	12	18	Edward	Pinger	Mayor	Hoffman Estates	Pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery, bribery, and filing false income tax returns	Chicago Tribune, Dec 19, 1973
1991	4	23	Donald	Prisco	Mayor	South Chicago Heights	plead guilty to conspiring to extort	Chicago Sun Times, April 24, 1991
1995	7	5	Philip	Raffe	RTA Board Member, Maine Township official	Maine Township	Pleaded guilty to fraud	Chicago Sun-Times, Jul. 6, 1995.
2008	1	*	Donald	Ralls	Building and Fleet Division Superintendent	Bolingbrook	Pleaded guilty to charges he knowingly filed a false income tax return in 2001	Naperville Reporter (IL) - January 17, 2008
1998	2	21	Seymour	Sapoznik	Police Chief	Stone Park and Northlake	Plead guilty to accepting monthly bribes from mob	Maywood Herald, May 5, 1999
1994	10	11	Richard	Sarallo	Mayor	Oakbrook Terrace	Pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion	Chicago Sun-Times, October 12, 1994
2009	6	1	Vito	Scavo	Melrose Park Police Chief	Melrose Park	Found guilty of racketeering and extortion for requiring establishments to hire his security firm	Chicago Tribune, June 2, 2009
2002	8	23	Charles	Schneider	ran Specialty Risk Consultants, bilked Cicero	Cicero	Pleaded guilty: wire and mail fraud, racketeering conspiracy, and one count of tax conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Aug. 24, 2002
2004	10	21	Fred	Schreier	President Local 136, Machinery Movers, Ironworkers	River Grove, IL	Pleaded guilty: also investigated for ghost-payrolling and allowed mobsters to come into the union	Chicago Sun-Times, October 21, 2004
2002	8	23	Emil	Schullo	former Cicero Public Safety Director	Cicero	Found guilty, convicted on 5 counts of wire and mail fraud and one count of racketeering conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Aug. 24, 2002, Chicago Sun-Times January 3, 2003
2008	1	*	John	Schwab	Building and Fleet Division Dept Superintendent	Bolingbrook	Pleaded guilty to filing false tax returns and mail fraud	Naperville Reporter (IL) - January 17, 2008

2004	3	12	Ellen	Shadwick	Batavia MainStreet director	Batavia	Accused of stealing \$48,000 from the downtown revitalization, group pleaded guilty to one count of theft Friday	Daily Herald - March 13, 2004
1992	8	3	George	Sintic	Chicago Heights Police Officer	Chicago Heights	Convicted of drug conspiracy and money laundering	Chicago Sun-Times, Feb 26, 1993
1973	12	18	James	Sloan	Trustee, Hoffman Estates	Hoffman Estates	Pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for zoning changes, conspiracy, and tax charges	Chicago Tribune, Jan. 5, 1974
2011	*	*	Ronald	Slusser	Lake County sheriff's officer	Lake County	Used their positions to buy 74 fully automatic machine guns and selling them on the internet.	Chicago Sun-Times, September 22, 2011
1985	10	2	James	Smith	Superintendent, Du Page County Schools	Du Page County	Pleaded guilty: accepting a kickback of \$1,800, obstruction of justice, lying to an FBI agent	Chicago Tribune, Oct. 3, 1985
1988	1	19	Atterson	Spann	Lake County Commissioner	Lake County	Pleaded guilty to a single charge of racketeering and conspiracy	The Chicago Tribune, January 20, 1988
2002	3	28	Michael	Spano, Sr.	Mobster, involved in insurance fraud scheme	Cicero	Found guilty of bribery, tax evasion, money laundering and theft	Chicago Sun-Times, March 29, 2002
2002	8	23	Michael	Spano, Jr.	Worked at SRC insurance, helped run scheme	Cicero	Found guilty of wire, mail and bank fraud, racketeering and conspiracy	Chicago Tribune, Aug 24, 2002
1999	12	3	Nicholas	Spina	Village Attorney	Melrose Park	Pleaded guilty to income tax evasion after helping to convict Melrose Park Mayor	Chicago Tribune, Dec. 4, 1999
2001	8	27	Jerome	Stack	Head of Public Works	Calumet City	Found guilty; racketeering and theft of funds	The Beacon News, Aug. 28, 2001
2009	*	*	Archie	Stallworth	Police officer	Harvey	Providing security for drug deals, drug running	Chicago Sun-Times, May 11, 2010
2006	11	7	Samuel "Sonny"	Stillo	Assistant to Mayor	Berwyn	Pleaded guilty to bribing an alderman and bid-rigging to help a developer buy city-owned property.	Chicago Sun-Times, November 8, 2006

1988	7	1	Frank	Stodola	Lake County Commissioner	Lake County	Convicted racketeering, extortion, and making false statement on a tax return	The Chicago Tribune, October 5, 1988
1990	*	*	Jeri	Sullivan	Village President	Glendale Heights	income tax evasion	Daily Herald February 4, 2001
1999	12	9	C. August	Taddeo	Mayor	Melrose Park	Pleaded guilty to extorting thousands of dollars from the village attorney	Chicago Tribune, Dec. 9, 1999
1996	5	16	Robert	Tezak	Will County Coroner	Will County	Convicted of conspiracy and arson	Chicago Tribune May 17, 1996
2004	3	10	Janet	Thomas	President of Harvey School District 152	Harvey	Found guilty; defrauded college aid program	Chicago Sun-Times, May 13, 2004
1998	2	27	John	Thomas	Warren Township Highway Department laborer	Warren	found guilty of two counts of official misconduct	The News-Sun, February 28, 1998
2005	11	22	Ryan	Thomas	School District 168 Superintendent	Sauk Village	plead guilty to theft of funds	The Star, November 24, 2005
2001	7	18	Marshall	Thompson	Park District police officer	Maywood	Taking bribes and selling police badges	Chicago Sun-Times, Oct 11, 2001
1989	12	7	Albert	Tocco	Mob boss	Chicago Heights	Found guilty of racketeering, mail fraud, theft of funds	Chicago Tribune, Dec 8, 1989
1996	12	17	Anthony	Torres	Superintendent Bellwood School District 88	Bellwood	Pleaded guilty to charges of embezzlement	West Proviso Herald, December 25, 1996
1984	7		Thomas	Tucker	Police Lieutenant	Stone Park	Three counts of felony mail fraud	Melrose Park Herald, January, 10 1996
1990	5		William	Tweeter	Police Officer	Lyons	Plead guilty to accepting sexual favors from prostitutes for overlooking vice crimes	Chicago Sun Times March 3, 1990
2009	9		Robert	Urbinatti	Franklin Park Police Officer	Franklin Park	Plead guilty to racketeering, conspiracy, conducting an illegal gambling business, obstruction of law enforcement	Melrose Park Herald, February 20, 2002
1974	*	*	Michael	Valenza	Trustee 1967-1970	Wheeling	Pleaded guilty to his involvement in extortion scheme	Chicago Tribune, May 18, 1974



2002	3	26	Arthur	Veal	Deputy Marshal	Dolton	Pleaded guilty, drug smuggling	Chicago Sun-Times, Apr 26, 2002
1993	1	21	Allen	Vehrs	Police Officer	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty to fabricating drug evidence	Chicago Sun-Times, Jan 22 1993
2010	7	21	Dino	Vitalo	Police officer	Berwyn	plead guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice	Chicago Sun-Times (7/22/10)
2000	7	6	William	Wassman	Police officer	Bensenville	Attempted obstruction of justice	Daily Herald 7/7/00
1987	*	*	Ronald	Watson	Deputy Assesor	Calumet Township	Pled guilty to charges involving bribery and later testified against Jankovich	The Chicago Tribune, May 29, 1987.
2002	8	7	Timothy	Wells	Village administrator	Antioch	Pleaded guilty to forgery and perjury	News Sun, August 8, 2002
1992	8	3	George	Werner	Police Officer	Chicago Heights	Convicted of drug conspiracy and money laundering	Chicago Sun-Times, Feb 26, 1993
1974	4	24	Curtis	Whitaker	Mayor	Westhaven	Found guilty: extortion for threatening to block home construction from a property owner	Chicago Tribune, Apr. 25, 1974
1997	1	3	Cordell	Williams	Police Officer	Ford Heights	pleaded guilty to insurance fraud	Chicag Sun Times, January 4, 1997
1989	8	30	Charles	Willis	Bribe payer	Cicero	Pleaded guilty to lying to a grand jury about paying a bribe for a liquor license	Chicago Tribune, Oct 5, 1989
1985	7	15	James	Wright	Superintendent, Du Page County Schools	Du Page County	Pleaded guilty to income tax fraud and mail fraud in connection with a \$47,000 embezzlement scheme	Chicago Tribune, Oct 3, 1985
1998	2	13	Bonita	Wright	Park District Board President	Dixmoor	conspiracy to commit theft, theft and money laundering.	Chicago Tribune, Feb 27, 1998.
2009	6	2	Michael	Wynn	Part-time Police Officer	Melrose Park	Convicted in federal court of forcing Melrose Park establishments to hire the Police Chief's security firm	Elm Leaves, July 30, 2009
1993	3	17	James	Zerante	Police Officer	Chicago Heights	Pleaded guilty to fabricating drug evidence	Chicago Sun-Times, Mar 18 1993

