

JOHN E. ZARUBA  
SHERIFF



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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
COUNTY OF DUPAGE

December 2, 2003

Honorable Robert Schillerstrom  
DuPage County Board Chairman  
421 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Dear Chairman Schillerstrom:

In your letter of November 21, 2003 you indicate that the land adjacent to the Greene Valley Forest Preserve is not an appropriate site for a firing range and vehicle storage facility. That is exactly what I expressed to your Public Works Director Greg Wilcox on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

I am surprised that your staff would even consider recommending the Greene Valley site to my staff as a potential site knowing that the residents of the area were promised the land would be reserved as open space and utilized only for recreational purposes. I can only assume there was a communication error between your desires and your staff's interaction with my Office. I believe that the surrounding community will be happy their concerns were heard.

Now that we both are conscious of the community concerns and agree this site is not acceptable it is time to find an alternative. I again formally request your assistance in locating a site for a seized vehicle storage lot for 300-400 vehicles and outdoor shooting range. Public Works has the specifications.

We both agree that a firing range is important to our local law enforcement community. It is necessary for liability protection for the County to maintain a trained Special Operations Unit and Multi-jurisdictional Regional Weapons of Mass Destruction Special Containment Unit for the purposes of Homeland Security.

It is also statutorily mandated that the Sheriff's Office store all seized vehicles and that the County provide the space to accomplish this mandate. Also, the County will be unable to collect the \$250.00 fee per vehicle storage fee. Such fees are reflected in the Sheriff's revenue projections, based on the County's agreement to build such a facility.

Because the Sheriff does not own property, the Sheriff must depend on the County to provide the resources so the Sheriff can fulfill his statutorily mandated duties, reduce the liability of the County and adequately protect it's population. To achieve that end another site must be found as soon as possible.

Please have your staff contact Chief Michael Blazek at 682-6626 with any further information about suitable sites.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Zaruba  
Sheriff, DuPage County