



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
21801 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village Illinois 60411
Cook County Illinois

John Howard IV
OIG SAUK VILLAGE
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT
PUBLIC REPORT



STRENGTH - INTEGRITY - ATTENTION TO DETAIL - PROFESSIONALISM - PATRIOTISM



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
21801 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village Illinois 60411
Cook County Illinois**

**John Howard IV
Inspector General
24Hr On Call Cell 202-820-0000**

**21801 Torrence Ave
Sauk Village, IL. 60411
24Hr Phone 708-888-0317**

**Inspector General Report – December 30th 2024
Inspector General Report – Updated Monday December 30th 2024
Sauk Village Illinois – Illinois Municple Code Violations**

StateViolations by Statute and Municple code violations:	Page
65 ILCS 5 Illinois Municple Code Violations. No veto power. -----	1
720 ILCS 5/ 21 – Criminal Tresspass on Government Property. -----	2
65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-50 Prevents a felon from holding a municipal office. -----	3-17
720 ILCS 5/16-1 – Theft of Governmental Property. Public Works. -----	18
65 ILCS 5/8-8-3 (from Ch. 24, par. 8-8-3) Audit requirements. -----	19
Illinois Municpal Code Violations Hiring without the board of trustees knowledge and approval. -----	20
Shutting off water without following municplal ordinances. -----	21-23
Blocking the new Inspector General from accessing his office. -----	24-29
Municipal phones are not answered by department – Finance Dept., Water Dept., Public Works, Police Dept., Mayors Office. -----	30
Voice mails are not answered to service the public and new voicemail can't be recorded. -----	30
Sauk Village no municipal budget for 2 years. -----	31
AIC overpayments \$18,000.00 and \$13,000.00 in a 1 month period for 26 Computers -----	32

Federal Violations By Statute: Currently Under Review.

-



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Cook County Illinois**

65 ILCS 5 Illinois Municiple Code Violations. No veto power.

Sauk village IL does not have **veto power** or strong mayor structure it is set up with a Board of Trustees, Mayor and a Clerk.

Mayors in some Illinois cities do not have the power to veto ordinances passed by the council:

- **Cities that elect councilmen**

In cities that elect councilmen, the mayor can vote on council questions but cannot veto them.

- **Cities that do not elect alderpersons from wards**

In cities that do not elect alderpersons from wards, the mayor can vote on council questions but cannot veto them.

Mayors in mayor-council cities can veto ordinances passed by the council, but they cannot veto other council actions. If a mayor disapproves of an ordinance, they can return it to the council with written objections at the next regular meeting. If the mayor does not return the ordinance within the designated time, it becomes law. The council can override a veto with a two-thirds vote of all members.

Mayor Derrick Burgess has vetoed ordinances which were passed by the corporate authorities which are the board of trustees multiple times without the **authority to veto** this has been witnessed by the Inspector General as well as the board of trustees of Sauk Village, Illinois Cook County during board meetings I have attended and meetings of the whole from August 2024 through December 2024. It has been reported to me by the board of trustees that he(Mayor Derek Burgess has vetoed ordinances which were passed by the corporate authorities which are the board of trustees prior to my arrival as Inspector General. **There is no official record of Article 6 ever being adopted by the Sauk Village corporate authorities.**

(65 ILCS 5/Art. 6 Div. 4 heading)
DIVISION 4. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF MAYOR,
COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

(65 ILCS 5/6-4-1) (from Ch. 24, par. 6-4-1)

Sec. 6-4-1. Mayor.

The mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the city or village by the courts for the purpose of serving civil process and by the governor for all legal purposes.

The mayor of any city or village which adopts this Article 6 shall have veto power as provided in Sections 6-4-2 through 6-4-4 and ordinances or measures may be passed over his veto as therein provided. Such mayor shall have the power to vote as provided in Section 6-4-5.



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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720 ILCS 5/ 21 – Criminal Trespass on Government Property

The following was reported to my office on **August 23rd of 2024** confirmed by trustees. The OIG office has filed a court action against the individual and has advised the board of trustees to contact the **State Police TROOP 3** when the individual is present and in violation of **720 ILCS 5/ 21 – Criminal Trespass on Government Property. According to the local officials the local Police Department will not and has refused to act.**

Reported:

Subject: Unauthorized Activities and Legal Risks Concerning Payments and Access to Village Property**

I am writing to formally address a matter of significant legal concern regarding your interactions with the Village of Sauk Village, particularly related to payments for services rendered after April 30, 2023, and your continued access to village property.

****Lack of a Legally Binding Contract****

It has come to our attention that as of April 30, 2023, there is no valid, legally binding contract between you and the Village of Sauk Village. Any work or services allegedly performed on behalf of the village after this date lack the necessary authorization from the Village Board, and no new contract has been approved or executed.

Despite this, for the past 15 months, the Mayor has repeatedly included your invoices in the village's accounts payable for unauthorized approval. The Village Attorney has confirmed that your contract was not renewed and has further indicated that the Mayor's actions are in direct violation of Illinois state statutes.

2. **Legal Implications of Receiving Payment**

Please be advised that accepting any payments from the Village of Sauk Village for services rendered after April 30, 2023, may subject you to serious legal consequences. Any payment made by the village for these unauthorized services, particularly if signed by the Mayor or any other individual without an approved contract, could potentially be classified as embezzlement, theft, or bribery. Such payments would not be considered official acts of the Village of Sauk Village and could expose both you and the signatory to criminal prosecution.

3. **Trespassing on Village Property**

Moreover, it has been brought to our attention that you have continued to access Village property under the direction of the Mayor, despite warnings from the Village Attorney. This access is unauthorized and constitutes trespassing, which further exposes the Village to significant liabilities. The Village Attorney has made it clear that this conduct could have serious legal repercussions for both the Village and yourself.

4. **Immediate Cease of Activities**

In light of these considerations, we strongly advise that you immediately cease all activities related to the Village of Sauk Village, including but not limited to rendering services, submitting invoices, and accessing village property, unless and until a new contract is formally approved and executed by the Village Board. Continuing with any of these activities without proper authorization could lead to personal legal action against you.

5. **Next Steps**

We urge you to consider the legal risks involved and to refrain from accepting any unauthorized payments or performing any further work on behalf of the Village of Sauk Village. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, we recommend consulting with your legal counsel to ensure you are fully aware of the potential implications.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.



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Cook County Illinois**

65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-50 – Prevents a felon from holding a municipal office

65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-50 prevents felons from running for municipal office, it is also important to know if an individual with violent repeat misdemeanors is running for public office or displays conduct unbecoming of a public official.

Candidate for Sauk Village Clerk – David Smith Repeat Criminal History

Case Number:	L1453775
County Of Origin:	COOK
DOCNumber:	5282984
Case Filing Date:	9/12/2023
Sex:	Male
Data Source:	Criminal Court
SSN:	352-84-xxxx
State Of Origin:	Illinois
Address:	 <u>2050 216TH ST.</u> <u>SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411</u>
Name:	<u>DAVID J SMITH</u>
DOB:	4/21/1979

AKAs

Name: DAVID J SMITH

Offenses

Offense

Court

Case Number:	L1453775
Offense:	L1-453-775 DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Statute:	46 19

Record

Case Number:	12119424301
County Of Origin:	COOK
DOCNumber:	5282984
Case Filing Date:	1/20/2012
Sex:	Male
Data Source:	Criminal Court
SSN:	352-84-xxx



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Cook County Illinois

State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
2050 216TH ST.
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Name: DAVID J SMITH
DOB: 4/21/1979

AKAs

Name: DAVID J SMITH

Offenses

Offense


Arrest

Date: 1/16/2012

Court

Case Number: 12119424301
Disposition: STRICKEN OFF – LEAVE REINSTATE
Disposition Date: 3/2/2012
Level: MISDEMEANOR CLASS C
Offense: CANNABIS – POSSESS LESS T
Statute: 720-550/4-A

Record

Case Number: 6119175801
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 6430929
Case Filing Date: 1/31/2006
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 352-84-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
8204 ANCHOR DR.
WOODRIDGE, IL 60517

Name: DAVID J SMITH
DOB: 4/21/1979

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 1/26/2006

Court

Case Number: 6119175801



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Cook County Illinois

Disposition: STRICKEN OFF – LEAVE REINSTATE
Disposition Date: 3/23/2006
Level: MISDEMEANOR CLASS A
Offense: CANNABIS – POSSESS 10-30
Statute: 720-550/4-C

Record

Case Number: 2129364901
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 5282984
Case Filing Date: 11/6/2002
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 352-84-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
2050 216TH ST.
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411
Name: DAVID J SMITH
DOB: 4/21/1979

AKAs

Name: DAVID J SMITH

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 10/31/2002

Court

Case Number: 2129364901
Disposition: STRICKEN OFF – LEAVE REINSTATE
Disposition Date: 11/26/2002
Level: MISDEMEANOR CLASS C
Offense: CANNABIS – POSSESS LESS T
Statute: 720-550/4-A



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Cook County Illinois

Candidate for Sauk Village Mayor – **Arnold Coleman Criminal History**
Case Dismissed- Disposition Attached → Page 7

Record

Case Number: 126589101
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 4487981
Case Filing Date: 5/30/2000
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 323-48-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
7217 ALBANY AVE,
CHICAGO, IL 60629
Name: ARNOLD C COLEMAN
DOB: 5/28/1954

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

,Date: 5/23/2000


Court

Case Number: 126589101
Disposition: STRICKEN OFF – LEAVE REINSTATE
Disposition Date: 6/29/2000
Level: FELONY FOURTH DEGREE
Offense: DISORDERLY CONDUCT – FALS
Statute: 720-5.0/26-1-A-4



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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Arnold Colemand Case **Dismissed**

 **Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cook County**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
 VS
 COLEMAN, ARNOLD C

NUMBER: 00126589101

CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF CONVICTION / DISPOSITION

I, Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, and keeper of the records and seal thereof do hereby certify that the electronic records of the Circuit Court of Cook County show that:

The States Attorney of COOK COUNTY/LOCAL PROSECUTOR HAS FILED A COMPLAINT with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Charging the above named defendant with:

COUNT	STATUTE	DEGREE	DESCRIPTION	ARREST DATE
001	720-5.0/26-1-A-4	F4	DISORDERLY CONDUCT - FALS	5/23/2000

The following disposition(s) was/were rendered before the Honorable Judge(s):


EVENTS AND ORDERS OF THE COURT:
 5/23/2000 BOND SET BY RULE OF COURT
 SHARKEY, TERRANCE V
 6/29/2000 STRICKEN OFF LEAVE TO REINSTATE
 KOWALSKI, THADDEUS L
 7/2/2008 CASH BOND REFUND PROCESSED FORWARDED ACCOUNTING
 DEPARTMENT
 BOND RELEASED 062900

HEARINGS
 6/29/2000 9:00 AM Bond Set By Rule of Court Branch 34/Room 1

PLEAS, DISPOSITIONS AND SENTENCES:

Disposition:
 001 6/29/2000 STRICKEN OFF - LEAVE REINSTATE

1 of 2
 Printed: 12/30/2024 3:36:01 PM

 **Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cook County**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
 VS
 COLEMAN, ARNOLD C

NUMBER: 00126589101


CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF CONVICTION / DISPOSITION

I, Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, and keeper of the records and seal thereof do hereby certify that the electronic records of the Circuit Court of Cook County show that:

The States Attorney of COOK COUNTY/LOCAL PROSECUTOR HAS FILED A COMPLAINT with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Sentence (Credit):

I hereby certify that the foregoing has been entered of record on the above captioned case.
 Date: 12/30/2024


 Mariyana T. Spyropoulos
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

2 of 2
 Printed: 12/30/2024 3:36:01 PM

/




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Candidate for Sauk Village Clerk **Eugene Carter Repeat Criminal History**
Felony Conviction – Confirmed – Recommendation Immediate
Removal as Sauk Village Trustee – State of Illinois Statute violation
65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-50

Criminal Actions Involving Subject – Secondary Sources-

Record

Case Number: 5114736601
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 6371328
Case Filing Date: 11/20/2005
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 356-62-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
1819 222ND
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411
Name: EUGENE E CARTER
DOB: 12/28/1969

AKAs

Name: EUGENE E CARTER

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 11/19/2005

Court

Case Number: 5114736601
Level: FELONY
Offense: FUGITIVE WARRANT
Statute: 725-225-2

Record

Case Number: 96CR2682801
County Of Origin: COOK
Case Filing Date: 10/16/1996
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 356-62-xxxx



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Cook County Illinois

State Of Origin: Illinois

Address:



Name: EUGENE CARTER

DOB: 12/28/1969

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 8/14/1996

Court

Case Number: 96CR2682801

Disposition: FINDING OF GUILTY

Disposition Date: 11/4/1996

Level: FELONY FOURTH DEGREE

Offense: POSS AMT CON SUB EXCEPT(A)

Statute: 720-570/402I

Offense

Arrest

Date: 8/14/1996

Court

Case Number: 96CR2682801

Disposition: PLEA OF GUILTY

Disposition Date: 11/4/1996

Level: FELONY FOURTH DEGREE

Offense: POSS AMT CON SUB EXCEPT(A)

Statute: 720-570/402I

Offense

Arrest

Date: 8/14/1996

Court

Case Number: 96CR2682801

Disposition: PROBATION TERMINATED- SATISFAC

Disposition Date: 11/12/1997

Level: FELONY FOURTH DEGREE

Offense: POSS AMT CON SUB EXCEPT(A)

Statute: 720-570/402I

Record

Case Number: 96113629601



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21801 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village Illinois 60411
Cook County Illinois

County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 6371328
Case Filing Date: 8/16/1996
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 356-62-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois

Address:


1819 222ND
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Name: EUGENE E CARTER
DOB: 12/28/1969

AKAs

Name: EUGENE E CARTER

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 8/14/1996


Court

Case Number: 96113629601
Disposition: FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE
Disposition Date: 10/7/1996
Level: FELONY FOURTH DEGREE
Offense: POSSESS <15 GRAMS COCA
Statute: 720 570/402(C)



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Cook County Illinois

Sauk Village Trustee – **Raven V Johnson Repeat Criminal History**

Case Number: L1453774
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 9269715
Case Filing Date: 9/12/2023
Sex: Female
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 112-66-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
2050 216TH ST.
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Name: RAVEN V JOHNSON
DOB: 10/19/1982

AKAs

Name: RAVEN V JOHNSON

Offenses

Offense

Court

Case Number: L1453774
Offense: L1-453-774 DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Statute: 46 19

Record

Case Number: 16DV6021601
County Of Origin: COOK
DOCNumber: 9269715
Case Filing Date: 2/25/2016
Sex: Female
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 112-66-xxxx



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Cook County Illinois

State Of Origin:

Illinos

Address:


2050 216TH ST.
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Name:

RAVEN V JOHNSON

DOB:

10/19/1982

AKAs

Name:

RAVEN V JOHNSON

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date:

2/24/2016

Court

Case Number:

16DV6021601

Disposition:

NOLLE PROSEQUI

Disposition Date:

2/25/2016

Level:

MISDEMEANOR CLASS C

Offense:

ASSAULT – SIMPLE

Statute:

720-5/12-1-A



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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Cook County Illinois

Criminal Records Involving Subject – Primary Source-
RAVEN V JOHNSON IL COOK CLERK OF COURT-

Physical Description

NAME: RAVEN V JOHNSON **DATE OF BIRTH:**
PHYSICAL DATA: FEMALE **HAIR/EYE COLOR:**

Address

Address:


2246 POPLAR LN,
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Criminal Records

Offensedescription	ASSAULT – SIMPLE
Arrest Date	02/2016
Case Type	MISDEMEANOR CLASS C
Chargefiling Date	02/2016
Disposition	NOLLE PROSEQUI
Disposition Date	02/2016
Offensecode	720-5/12-1-A
Booking Number	19269715
County/Jurisdiction	COOK
Case Number	16DV6021601



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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Cook County Illinois

RAVEN V JOHNSON IL COOK CLERK OF COURT-

Physical Description

NAME:	<u>RAVEN V JOHNSON</u>	DATE OF BIRTH:
PHYSICAL DATA:	FEMALE	HAIR/EYE COLOR:

Address

Address:


2050 216TH ST,
SAUK VILLAGE, IL 60411

Criminal Records

Offensedescription	L1-453-774 DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Case Type	QUASI CRIMINAL I
Chargefiling Date	09/2023
Disposition	DISPOSITION NOT PROVIDED BY SOURCE
Offensecode	46 19
County/Jurisdiction	COOK
Case Number	L1453774



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Cook County Illinois

**Sauk Village Senior Center – Emmet Farmer Repeat Criminal History
Felony Conviction – Confirmed – Recommendation Immediate
Removal as Sauk Village Senior Center Representative**

Criminal Actions Involving Subject – Secondary Sources-

Record

Case Number: 98CR0128704
County Of Origin: COOK
Case Filing Date:gv 1/9/1998
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 428-17-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
28 103RD PL
CHICAGO, IL 60628
Name: EMMETT FARMER
DOB: 1/19/1960

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 12/6/1997

Court

Case Number: 98CR0128704
Disposition: FINDING OF GUILTY
Disposition Date: 7/8/1999
Fine: 20000
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: AGG BATTERY/PEACE OFF/FIR
Statute: 720-5/12-4(B)(6)

Offense

Arrest

Date: 12/6/1997

Court

Case Number: 98CR0128704
Disposition: FINDING OF NOT GUILTY
Disposition Date: 7/8/1999



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21801 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village Illinois 60411
Cook County Illinois

Fine: 20000
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: UNLWFL USE FIREARMS/FELON
Statute: 720-5/24-1.1

Record

Case Number: 93CR2654401
County Of Origin: COOK
Case Filing Date: 11/17/1993
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 428-17-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address:


7948 LOOMIS BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60620

Name: EMMETT FARMER
DOB: 1/19/1960

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 10/14/1993

Court

Case Number: 93CR2654401
Disposition: DISCHARGED
Disposition Date: 4/12/1994
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: UNLWFUL USE WPN BY FEL
Statute: 38-24-1.1

Offense

Arrest

Date: 10/14/1993

Court

Case Number: 93CR2654401
Disposition: FINDING OF NOT GUILTY
Disposition Date: 4/12/1994
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: UNLWFUL USE WPN BY FEL
Statute: 38-24-1.1



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Cook County Illinois

Record

Case Number: 86CR0059301
County Of Origin: COOK
Case Filing Date: 1/30/1986
Sex: Male
Data Source: Criminal Court
SSN: 428-17-xxxx
State Of Origin: Illinois
Address: 
28 103RD PL
CHICAGO, IL 60628
Name: EMMETT FARMER
DOB: 1/19/1960

Offenses

Offense

Arrest

Date: 11/7/1985

Court

Case Number: 86CR0059301
Disposition: PG JW FINDING GUILTY
Disposition Date: 11/12/1986
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: MAN/DEL CONT SUB
Statute: 56.5-1401-C

Offense

Arrest

Date: 11/7/1985

Court

Case Number: 86CR0059301
Disposition: PROBATION TERMINATED- SATISFAC
Disposition Date: 12/16/1988
Level: FELONY THIRD DEGREE
Offense: MAN/DEL CONT SUB
Statute: 56.5-1401-C



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Cook County Illinois

720 ILCS 5/16-1 – Theft of Governmental Property

Theft of governmental property from the public works department of Sauk Village has been anonymously reported and reported by employees, which must be verified and confirmed by conducting additional investigations. There is currently no asset tracking or asset management system in place to monitor purchased equipment used for the public works department. Allegedly fuel is being used in personal vehicles by transferring the municipal fuel from gas cans to their personal cars. More investigations will be conducted in January 2025 by the OIG regarding this matter. Other reported concerns → Municipal vehicles of the public works department being used and driven for personal purposes in the city of Chicago. Discrimination against white employees at the public works department has also been reported to the OIG.

Recommendations:

1. Vehicle GPS tracking devices.
2. Asset tracking of all equipment and gear purchases.
3. Remote Wi-Fi surveillance systems at the Public Works site.
4. Termination of all individuals whom removed fuel cans without proper authorization.



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65 ILCS 5/8-8-3 (from Ch. 24, par. 8-8-3) Audit requirements

Sauk Village has not had an audit within a **four-year period**, which is a violation of. **65 ILCS 5/8-8-3 of the Illinois compiled statutes. Review the attached letter.**



ILLINOIS OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER

SUSANA A. MENDOZA
COMPTROLLER

November 19, 2024

Derrick Burgess, Mayor
Village of Sauk Village
Via Electronic Mail

Renee Lewis, Interim Finance Director
Village of Sauk Village
Via Electronic Mail

Re: Notice of Forced Audit [016/510/32]

Dear Mayor Derrick Burgess and Interim Finance Director Renee Lewis:

The Illinois Office of Comptroller's ("IOC") Local Government Division ("LGD") has the statutory obligation to facilitate the financial reporting process for local governments, and to assist local governments in complying with their mandated fiscal responsibilities. Per Illinois statutes 50 ILCS 310 [Governmental Account Audit Act], 55 ILCS 5/6-31004 [Counties Code-Audits], 65 ILCS 5/8 [Illinois Municipal Auditing Act], governments are required to file the Annual Financial Report ("AFR"), Audit Report, and Tax Increment Finance ("TIF") Report(s) (if applicable) with the LGD, within a specified time frame. Reports not filed in a timely manner are delinquent, and consequently subject to fines and forced audit.

The LGD is preparing to assign the fiscal year 2021, 2022 and 2023 AFR, and if applicable Audit Report(s), and the fiscal year 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 TIF reports to a licensed certified public accountant for completion. Per statute, if the audit is made by a licensed public accountant retained by the Comptroller, the governmental unit must pay to the Comptroller actual compensation and expenses to reimburse the cost of making such audit (65 ILCS 5/8).

The governmental unit must respond to this letter with one (1) of the following:

1. Reason(s) compliance is not practicable due to natural disaster or passage of time, including detailed explanation and any available supporting documentation.
2. Compliance plan, including a proposed compliance date. If the services of a certified public accountant (CPA) are required for compliance, an Engagement Letter from the contracted CPA must be included.
3. The reasons you disagree with the non-complaint reporting status.

The LGD must be in receipt of the local government's response no later than **December 17, 2024, at 11:59pm**. Upon receipt, the LGD will review for approval/denial, and a determination will be immediately communicated to the local government with additional information on next steps.

Regards,

Rosanna Barbaro-Flores
Director | Local Government Division
Illinois Office of Comptroller
555 West Monroe Street, Ste 1400S-A
Chicago, IL 60661
Phone: (312) 814 -1070
Email: rosanna.barbaro-flores@illinoiscomptroller.gov



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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Cook County Illinois

Hiring municipal department directors without the board of trustees knowledge or approval.

Village Administrator (Kenneth Johnson) – The village Administrator was hired and not vetted by the mayor and never got an opportunity to be brought before the entire board of trustees. At a June 21st 2024 Idlewild mayors and managers meeting Sauk Village administrator Kenneth Johnson vowed to get rid of all of the trustees in front of several witnesses including many elected officials. The **Illinois Municipal Code process** to hire an interim or non-interim employee was not followed by Mayor Derrick Burgess → **A Direct violation of the Illinois Municipal Code.**

Finance Director (LaQuisha Renee Lewis) - The village Finance Director. Was hired and not vetted by the mayor and never got an opportunity to be brought before the entire board of trustees. The finance director has worked for two years during the time **No audit has been completed during a four year time period has passed and no budget for two years has been completed. Possible Forced Audit by Illinois Office of the Comptroller, see page 19.**

Mayor (Derrick Burgess) hired additional staff without following Illinois Municipal Code procedures which invalidate the individuals hired.



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
21801 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village Illinois 60411
Cook County Illinois**

Shutting off residents water without following municipal ordinances.

Complaint received and confirmed: The complaint listed below was sent to the OIG by Otis Smith residential property owner.

Attention: Renee Lewis, Kenneth Johnson, Mayor Derrick Burgess, & Dante James, Sauk Village Community:

Definition 1: Extortion: The practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats.

In this email I am going to shed some light on all of the false accusations & lies. And, after doing so I am again going to request that the water be turned on immediately at: 1600 217th Pl, Front & Back Units, Sauk Village, IL 60411. As it stands, the water should have never been disconnected in the first place. I have made multiple efforts to change my mailing address. Today is Monday, October 28, 2024 & the task is still not completed. I have encountered several residents in this past week alone from Sauk Village including the public library experiencing this same problem. And, the problem is Renee Lewis being backed by Mayor Derrick Burgess & Kenneth Johnson & carried out by Dante James – the criminal act of over inflating the water bills & demanding payment with the threat of shutting water off. If you open up the Village of Sauk Village Ordinances – Renee Lewis, Kenneth Johnson, Mayor Derrick Burgess, & Dante James are not in compliance with the water bill process.

In the Ordinances, it states:

In the Ordinances, it states:

Sec. 78-221. - Disconnection of service.



- (a) In the event that such charges for service become delinquent, the village shall give written notification to the customer that such delinquency exists and that services shall be discontinued forthwith, without further notice.

- (d) Service shall be disconnected if the bill has not been paid in full by the date stated on the final notice or by the end of the extension period, or if a payment plan is not followed.

(Code 2005, § 52.04; Ord. No. 94-4, 1-25-1994)

Sec. 78-222. - Reconnection of service during business hours of the village.



- (a) Service will not be reconnected until any delinquent bill for a service address is paid in full, or the payment plan for the service address is brought current.
- (b) A \$100.00 reconnection charge shall be paid prior to reconnection of service during the village's business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- (c) If a customer requests a reconnection between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on business days, then service will be reconnected upon payment of all applicable fees and charges, including delinquent amounts, and the reconnection charge described in this section shall be \$120.00.

(Code 2005, § 52.05; Ord. No. 94-4, 1-25-1994; Ord. No. 08-09, § 2, 2-12-2008; Ord. No. 08-19, § 2, 3-11-2008; Ord. No. 13-019, § 3, 7-9-2013; Ord. No. 16-004, § 3, 1-26-2016; Ord. No. 16-011, § 2, 5-10-2016)



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On Tuesday, October 22nd 2024, at a board meeting at Village of Sauk Village Mayor Derrick Burgess was asked repeatedly about water bill issues for none of which he had an answer. In the 2-days I have had to deal with this problem, I already know what is broken & how to fix it. I could come into the Village with comprehensible plan & correct every water bill in 6-months or less. It appears that this process is so simply the only reason not to do it is greed.

Thank you to a discussion I had on Friday, October 25th, 2024 @ 3pm with Dante James - he unknowingly informed me of why I was being targeted by Renee Lewis, Kenneth Johnson & Dante James. This came about when he became angry & started yelling a number of things that he did not intend to say out loud. This anger came about when he could not convince me to make another payment on the same water bills that were already paid in full Thursday, October 24th, 2024.

My FIRST concern: I am going to address is my involvement with the Trustees. When I was approached by Sauk Village in 2021, I was currently the President of ECCPA for Eagan, Minnesota Police Department & a board member other various programs. Shortly after Mayor Derrick Burgess was elected, he & his team asked me to access the vacant properties in Sauk Village. At that time none of the current administration was employed at the Village of Sauk Village. This probably stands to reason why they make a lot of assumptions about me. After accessing over 400 vacant properties in the Village of Sauk Village I handed over this document to Mayor Derrick Burgess. I also developed a program to resolve this problem. In this meeting, Mayor Derrick Burgess smiled & said it was a great plan. One of the individuals in the meeting was former Trustee Larry Sapp. In the past, I dealings with Trustee Larry Sapp & thought of him as a mentor. During this relationship, he started to call me son. As doing so, that is how I was introduced to Mayor Derrick Burgess & his team. But Larry Sapp is not my father & also not the only individual that calls me son. I had to prove this to Mayor Derrick Burgess after Trustee Sapp & Mayor Burgess had a falling out. As an example, there is a Caucasian named Richard Satori that lives in Munster, IN & has been calling me his son well over 30+years. In my early years & even now I would often seek out mentors. Most times, this would lead to them embracing me into their families. In late 2022, I met Trustee Debbie Williams for the first time when I was doing free buyers seminars for the citizens of Sauk Village. Being a great community advocate, Trustee Debbie Willams attended one of my first seminars to see if it would be a good fit for the Village of Sauk Village. About 6 months after this due to my expertise, Trustee Debbie Willams asked me if I wanted to be on her committee – I had to decline due to my schedule. Trustee Debbie Willams & I did not have ANY communication again until February 2024 when I was having a disaster at my property in Sauk Village with a water main break. At that time, I called upon Trustee Debbie Willams & 4 of the other Trustees of Sauk Village – only because the current administration was not getting back to me. I did not call upon the 5th Trustee because I did not have his information at the time. All the Trustees of Sauk Village responded. There were no special favors, I was just a homeowner of Sauk Village being ignored. After going to Mayor Derrick Burgess & getting no result – my only option was to reach out to the public appointed Trustees. After that, I did not have any subsequent contact with Trustee Debbie Willams until they turned the water off using it as a weapon. Trustee Debbie Willams was just the first to reply to my email. Trustee Diane Sapp is the sister of former Trustee Larry Sapp. Therefore, I am guilty by association – this being said Trustee Diane Sapp is over the Housing Committee for Sauk Village. And because of my expertise, Trustee Diane Sapp reached out to me & asked for some ideas. Trustee Diane Sapp also asked if I would be on her committee. And, just like with Trustee Debbie Williams I had to decline. I am NOT related nor have I ever been to Trustee Diane Sapp. I am NOT in business with none of the Trustees. I do NOT owe an allegiance to none of the Trustees, and they do NOT owe allegiance to me – but it is their duty to take the call when someone from the community rings the bell. Some Trustees are more vocal than others & some are more readily available than others – but they are NOT doing this for reasons Renee Lewis would have you think. On both occasions the Trustees had to step in to help because Renee Lewis, Dante James, & this occasion – Kenneth Johnson was being unprofessional, unwilling to respond, unwilling to help & evasive.



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My SECOND concern: Shutting off the water, this should never have happened. Renee Lewis, Dante James, Kenneth Johnson, & the oversight of Mayor Derrick Burgess have weaponized the water bill for what can only be seen as their personal gain for over inflated salaries with outrageous raises & unwelcomed promotions. On Monday, October 21st, 2024 I initiated the conversations via voicemails & contacting the front desk at Village of Sauk Village pertaining to water bills located at 1600 217th Pl, Units Front & Back, Sauk Village, IL 60411. As you noticed, they only saw fit to reply to tell the Trustees in so many words to stay out of it. I was under the impression after not getting any returned calls after 2 days & sending a lengthy email this was the cause of Renee Lewis, Dante Lewis, & Kenneth Johnson retaliating against me & turning the water off 2 days after my email still not notifying me or acknowledging my request for water bills so I could make a payment. I was unaware that same evening after sending out my email about my horrific circumstance that the 3 of them were being issued termination letters. Because you can clearly see if Renee Lewis rebuttal, she believes that I am related to or in business with the Trustees of Sauk Village. So as Renee Lewis, Dante James, & Kenneth Johnson are retaliating against the Trustees of Sauk Village – they are taking this opportunity to retaliate against me. If I were on the disconnect notice list, why did none of them pick up the phone, send an email, or leave a message with the front desk from all the several phone calls & messages that I had left prior to the disconnect on Thursday, October 24th, 2024.

My THIRD concern: Address Changes. On Monday, January 22nd, 2024 when I paid the to turn the water services on – as this would have been my 3rd time completing one. The systems were down at Village of Sauk Village & I could not pay by credit card so I gave the young lady at the front desk a \$100 bill & she gave me a handwritten receipt that will be in my attachments. What they did with the address change form after I had left I do not know. Again, I gave my mailing address to the front desk when I called on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024 & the young ladies' name was Piper. To this day, it is not changed – this was discussed already on my first email on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024.

My FOURTH concern: Renee Lewis listed a screenshot in her email that we paid by check. If Renee Lewis is truly worthy of doing anything in the finance world she would already know that this is an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) - it is just called a check for banking purposes. And, if she has this information she can clearly see that we already have a credit issue & you do not get a credit on your account if they do not already have your money. Renee Lewis intent is clearly malus in nature. All this would have taken was a call to PSN payment center to verify if she could not comprehend the meaning of an Electronic Funds Transfer.



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Blocking the new Inspector General and other employess from accessing office

The mayor (Derrick Burgess) has been blocking the Inspector General from accessing his office in preventing him from interviewing anyone because he doesn't want any investigations to be completed. The investigations we'll uncover the blatant corruption as well as misuse of funds in addition to a plethora of violations. Common practice for the mayor to lock out people who he doesn't like who are hired for specific positions for example the mayor locked out the former Chief of Police (Chief Fox) As well as a number of others that were trying to perform their duties, at one time in 2019 a judge (**Judge Anna Helen Demacopoulos**) ordered the mayor Derrick Burgess not to commit this act again the court action is an exhibit in this report. The mayor also prevented an auditor from performing their duties in fear of uncovering illegal activities. Reports and information that are supposed to be forwarded to the clerk from the mayor and also has been requested by the board of trustees always ends up in the hands of the mayors personal associates or personal associates of trustees that the mayor has under his control. Multiple court actions have been filed (temporary restraining orders and other court actions) against the mayor regarding these repeated actions. The **court orders and case files** are available on the OIG website.

**2019 Case number CH08446
2024 Case number CH08480
2024 Case number CH10410**

Exhibits are attached below:



EXHIBIT A

21801 Torrence Ave,
Sauk Village, IL 60411

President
Derrick Burgess

Village Clerk
Marva Campbell-Pruitt

Board of Trustees
Aretha Burns
Eugene Carter
Arnold Coleman
Raven Johnson
Diane Sapp
Deborah L. Williams

August 19, 2024

Mr. John Howard IV

RE: Director of Office of Inspector General

Dear Mr. Howard:

This Special Board meeting was called by a majority of the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Sauk Village on August 15, 2024. Notice was issued in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. A majority of the Corporate Authorities voted to approve a Resolution to Authorize the Professional Service Agreement with John Howard for the Office of Inspector General for the Village of Sauk Village.

- 1) The purpose of the OIG is to direct, deter and prevent corruption, fraud, waste, criminal activity, mismanagement, unlawful political discrimination, unlawful activity and/or misconduct in the operation of Village affairs.
- 2) To refer complaints and information regarding possible misconduct to other outside law enforcement agencies, including, but not limited to the United States' Attorney.
- 3) The office of the inspector general has the power to subpoena any and all records pertaining to an investigation. The power to compel individuals to provide requested information related to an investigation.

Respectfully,

Trustee, Aretha Burns

Diane Sapp
Trustee

Deborah L. Williams
Trustee

Arnold Coleman
Trustee



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Chicago Tribune



DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Exhibit B

Judge orders Sauk Village mayor not to interfere with village administrator he'd allegedly prevented from working





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☰ **Chicago Tribune** 👤 ∨ 🔍

temporary restraining order that prohibits
Sauk Village's mayor from interfering with the
hiring of a new administrator.

Exhibit D

Mayor Derrick Burgess, who argued the
village board's recent hiring of an
administrator against his wishes was illegal,
had allegedly prevented Christopher Williams
from doing his job by refusing to grant him
access to Village Hall, village attorneys argued
in a court filing last month.

The village sought an injunction ordering
Burgess to stop interfering with Williams'
ability to do his job and on Friday Judge Anna
Helen Demacopoulos granted the village a
temporary restraining order against Burgess.

The ruling prohibits the mayor from
interfering with Williams' ability to do his job
until a hearing on the injunction can be held. A
preliminary hearing is set for Oct. 4.



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR'S GENERAL
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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

ARETHA BURNS, ARNOLD COLEMAN,)
DIANE SAPP, and DEBBIE WILLIAMS, as)
Trustees of the Village of Sauk Village,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
VIVIANN JONES, and DERRICK BURGESS,)
)
Defendants.)

Case No. 2024 CH 10410

Judge Clare J. Quish

DEC 30 2024

Circuit Court - Z160

AGREED ORDER

This matter coming to be heard on Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction, Plaintiff and Defendant Burgess present through counsel and Defendant Jones present *pro se* and by agreement of all parties, the Court being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order is entered and continued;
2. Defendant Burgess' Motion to Dismiss has been fully briefed by the parties;
3. Plaintiffs shall respond to Defendant Burgess' Motion for Court Review of Fee Waiver on or before **January 10, 2025**; Defendant Burgess shall file his reply on or before **January 17, 2025**;
4. Defendant to deliver courtesy copies of the fully briefed Motions to the Court by **January 21, 2025**;
5. Defendant Jones to file an appearance by January 24, 2025;
6. Plaintiffs and their consultants, Inspector General and Internal Auditor, shall have access to all Village banking records, in hard copy form, Monday/Wednesday/Friday for up to two (2) hours each of those days;
7. Plaintiffs and their consultants, Inspector General and Internal Auditor, shall have 'view only' or 'read only' access to the Village's CIVIC system Monday/Wednesday/Friday for up to two (2) each of those days.
8. The access will begin only after AIC releases any password(s) necessary to facilitate any 'view only' or 'read only' access.
9. The Plaintiffs *agree to not interfere with Sauk Village's decision* to retain and compensate additional IT experts to assist them in making certain that person(s) under this Order will only have



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'view only' or 'read only' access to information and that AIC does not again try to change any passwords or prevent Sauk Village from accessing the information; and

10. This matter is continued to **January 30, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.** before Judge Quish via Zoom for hearing on Defendant Burgess' Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Court Review of Fee Waiver. Zoom Meeting ID: 953 7174 9534, Password: 253498, Dial-In (312) 626-6799.

Order prepared by:
Michael J. McGrath,
mmcgrath@omfmlaw.com
Odelson, Murphey, Frazier & McGrath,
Ltd.
3318 W. 95th Street
Evergreen Park, IL 60805
Ph: (708) 424-5678
Attorney No. 100780

ENTERED:

Judge Clare J. Quish

Dec 30 2024
Circuit Court - 2160

Judge Clare J. Quish
DATE: December 30, 2024

Judge Clare J. Quish
(312) 603-3733
ccc.chancerycalendar14@cookcountyil.gov
Zoom Meeting ID: 953 7174 9534
Zoom Password: 253498
Zoom Dial-In: (312) 626-6799



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Municipal phones are not answered by department – Finance Dept., Water Dept., Public Works, Police Dept., Mayors Office.

I have received several reports of the municipal village hall not answering phone calls Returning phone calls or responding to voicemails this includes all departments of the Sauk Village. Calls made in 2024 from September through December.

Calls to the Finance Department:

Reported → Multiple calls to the finance department go unanswered everyday throughout the week.
Confirmed → **The OIG** made calls to the same department 100% of the time no calls answered.

Calls to the Water Department:

Reported → Multiple calls to the water department go unanswered everyday throughout the week.
Confirmed → **The OIG** made calls to the same department 100% of the time no calls answered.

Calls to the Public Works Department:

Reported → Multiple calls to the public works department go unanswered everyday throughout the week.
Confirmed → **The OIG** made calls to the same department 100% of the time no calls answered.

Calls to the Police Department

Unconfirmed → **Will be investigated.**

Calls to the Mayor's Office:

Reported → Multiple calls to the Mayor's Office go unanswered everyday throughout the week.
Confirmed → **The OIG** made calls to the same department 100% of the time no calls answered.

Voice mails are not answered to service the public and new voicemail can't be recorded.

It has also been reported that voicemails cannot be left for multiple departments this has also been confirmed by the OIG. When we've checked some of the numbers by calling, we could not leave voicemails because they have not been deleted out of the system which means in turn the voice mails have not been answered. This is terrible practice that leaves residents without answers.



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As our preliminary investigation continues, it is our request and recommendation that the information presented in the report be submitted to the Cook County State's Attorney and Illinois Attorney General for prosecution of all parties involved in the criminal activity described in the report which occurred. The information must also be sent directly to the State and County Election Boards. Audio and video of the illegal event are also available for review as well as witnesses willing to testify in a court of law. As we continue our investigation, additional information will be made available and submitted to all government agencies requesting the information for investigative purposes. This type of blatant disregard and disrespect of state law and by people seeking political office should not be tolerated. Mayor Derrick Burgess has compromised the public safety of the Village by appointing and hiring individuals with repeat criminal history.

STRENGTH - INTEGRITY - ATTENTION TO DETAIL - PROFESSIONALISM - PATRIOTISM