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Chairman: Shawn Miller | Vice Chairman: Bill Mowder | Secretary: Rose Connolly | Provost: Jay Hoffman

April 8, 2024

FROM: Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission Board
901 S. 11th St
Springfield, IL, 60701

Brian McFadden/Sangamon County Board
300 S. Ninth St.
Springfield, IL, 62701

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to follow up on our meeting held on November 1, 2023, in your conference room regarding the funding for the Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission.

During the aforementioned meeting, we emphasized the importance of adhering to the funding guidelines outlined in Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code, which stipulates a minimum annual allocation of .02% of County Property Taxes to Veterans Assistance Commissions. It was agreed that this minimum amount is crucial to adequately support the services provided by our commission to honorably discharged veterans in Sangamon County.

As of March 2024, we observed that the annual funding for our commission remains at \$408K, which significantly falls short of the calculated amount of approximately \$730K as per the aforementioned code. This discrepancy underscores the urgency of rectifying the funding situation to ensure that our commission can fulfill its duties effectively.

We are aware that Sangamon County is not the only county grappling with this issue, and we encourage you to consider our counterparts in Lake County and Peoria County, who have also sought complete funding from their respective counties. Notably, Peoria County engaged the services of attorney Josh Herman to advocate for their full funding allocation. While we hope to

resolve this matter without resorting to legal assistance, we are prepared to take necessary steps to uphold the provisions of the Military Veterans Assistance Act.

Our commission remains committed to working collaboratively with the County Board to ensure the proper allocation of resources to support our veterans. We firmly believe that fulfilling our obligations under the law is not only a legal imperative but also a moral obligation to those who have served our country bravely.

Should you require any further clarification or information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (618) 604-1073. We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to a prompt resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We kindly request a response from the County Board within 45 days of receipt of this letter. Your prompt attention to this issue will not only demonstrate your commitment to supporting our veterans but also ensure the timely allocation of resources essential for the effective operation of the Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission.

We eagerly await your response and remain optimistic about the prospect of resolving this matter amicably.

Thank you for your continued support of our veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



Shawn Miller, Chairman
Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission

Copies: Brian McFadden (brian.mcfadden@sangamonil.gov)

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