

IVI-IPO 2006 COOK COUNTY SHERIFF QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE: Jan. 3, 2006 Updated: July 23, 2006 PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Thomas J. Dart

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Paula Riggins

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: more than 25,000

NUMBER REQUIRED: 8,200

*Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:
-- For questions A thru F, please see candidate's bio. --*

- A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.
- B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
- C) What is your primary occupation?
- D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.
- E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?
- F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

I have received dozens of endorsements from elected officials and political organization, including the support of Senator Barack Obama, Senator Richard Durbin, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, the Cook County Democratic Party, and Equality Illinois. I also received the Democratic endorsements for the March primary from IVI-IPO, the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Suntimes, the Daily Herald and the Daily Southtown Economist.

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I believe I am uniquely qualified for the post of Cook County Sheriff because I have experience working in almost all facets of the criminal justice system. While an assistant Cook County state's attorney, I prosecuted the law. As an Illinois legislator I wrote the law. And as an administrator in the Cook County Sheriff's Office I've helped enforce the law. None of my opponents have this diversity of experience.

My goal as sheriff is to administer an office that professionally serves and protects the citizens of Cook County. I want the officers and deputies of the department to enforce the law firmly and fairly, with the understanding that their conduct will reflect negatively or positively on the entire office. Another primary goal of mine is to create and expand programs that attack the root causes of crime and reduce recidivism. Without these efforts, we will never be able to control overcrowding at Cook County Jail.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

We raised around \$500,000.00 from December through June and spent roughly \$400,000.00 during the primary election.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

We plan to have three or four paid campaign staffers and expect the help of dozens of volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2006 COOK COUNTY SHERIFF QUESTIONNAIRE – SECTION 2

1. Will you accept or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?

I have not solicited any campaign donations from sheriff's employees and I have instructed my campaign staff to refrain from seeking any financial contributions from vendors or contractors. I will abide by all county ethics regulations that limit contributions by contractors.

2. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?

I will not permit my senior staff to hold paid public sector jobs outside the department. However, due to collective bargaining agreements, I cannot prohibit rank-and-file employees from working "side jobs" for other public agencies as long as the work does not conflict with their duties in the Sheriff's Office. For instance, some deputies work as part-time officers for suburban police departments and others work security details at public schools.

3. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the County?

Again, I will not permit my senior staff to be involved in these types of business arrangements.

4. In what circumstances should the Sheriff's office contract for outside professional services and what criteria would you implement for letting contracts? Please comment on any existing abuses and how you would correct them.

I support limited use of outside professional services when existing sheriff's personnel cannot perform a given task or when an independent audit is needed. A recent study on staffing levels at Cook County Jail that was commissioned by the County Board is a good example of the need for outside professional services. I believe outside professional service contracts should always be competitively bid and voted on by the County Board.

5. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Cook County? Why or why not?

I believe companies based outside of the county should be utilized only when local firms are unable to provide the service needed or if a local firm's fees are excessive.

6. Do you support patronage?

Unlike most local government jobs, all sworn positions within the Cook County Sheriff's Office (about 5,500 jobs) are protected by civil service regulations. All deputies and officers must pass a written exam, a physical fitness test, a criminal background check, and a drug test before they are certified for hiring. Then they must graduate from a state certified training academy before they are sworn in as deputies. I support these regulations, which were implemented to prevent political hiring. *Additionally, I have proposed that similar hiring restrictions be implemented for approximately 1,000 additional, non-sworn employees, such as janitors and clerks. I will implement civil service testing for these positions.*

7. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes, I support Affirmative Action and always voted in favor of Affirmative Action in Springfield. Currently, more than half of the Sheriff's Office's sworn employees are African-American or Hispanic, making the department one of the most diverse big city law enforcement agencies in the nation.

8. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of county employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

Yes, throughout my career as a legislator I supported "equal pay for equal work" and authored legislation that made it illegal to discriminate against women in the workplace. I will continue to support gender equality as Sheriff. All of us who currently work in the Sheriff's Office are proud of the fact that approximately a quarter of our sworn officers are women. The Madison, Wisconsin Police Department is the only law enforcement agencies in nation with a higher percentage of female officers.

9. What policies and plans do you have for cooperation with the State Police, State's Attorney and the local police?

The Sheriff's Office has an outstanding working relationship with state and local law enforcement agencies. I plan to continue and expand these relationships. In particular, I believe the Sheriff's Police Department must aid suburban police departments who do not have the personnel or experience to handle specialized tasks like homicide investigations, undercover narcotics investigations, and vice suppression.

10. What areas of independence of action should be reserved for this local office?

Under the state constitution, the Sheriff's Office has three primary duties "reserved" for the department: securing the courts, administering the county jail, and patrolling unincorporated Cook County.

11. What is your opinion of the efficiency of the present bailiff force in the County Courts?

Currently, the Sheriff's Office does not have enough deputy sheriffs to staff the county court system. More than two dozen new courtrooms have been added in the past decade with no corresponding increase in the number of deputies.

Because of these staff shortages, a single deputy is often asked to cover two or more courtrooms during civil proceedings at the Daley Center. This is a potentially dangerous situation that has not been addressed with new personnel because of the county's budget difficulties.

12. What changes, if any, would you make in force deployment to address the shortage of prison guards and the reduced policing requirements of the shrinking unincorporated areas of the county?

The federal judge who oversees the Duran Consent Decree on jail overcrowding has ordered the county to hire approximately 700 new correctional officers to address staffing shortages at the Cook County Jail. This will create new budgetary difficulties, but the county cannot legally refuse to abide by a federal consent decree. If elected sheriff, I will work with the County Board to meet the court's expectations.

The population of unincorporated Cook County has decreased from about 128,000 residents in 1990 to about 112,000 residents today, which has prompted some to call for a reduction in personnel in the Sheriff's Police force. But at the same time, the number of calls for service to the Sheriff's Police has increased in recent years and the Sheriff's Police department's duties expanded two years ago when they took over criminal investigations for the Forest Preserve Police after their detective division was eliminated. Therefore, I am reluctant to support the reduction in Sheriff's Police patrol levels at this time.

13. What qualifications and training should be required of deputy sheriffs?

See answer to question #6.

14. What will you do to eliminate political favoritism as a factor in awarding deputy sheriff badges?

See answer to question #6.

15. Is racial profiling a legitimate tool in law enforcement? Why or why not?

Racial profiling is not a legitimate tool in law enforcement and Sheriff's Police officers do not employ it as a policing tool. In fact, the Associated Press reported last summer that a new state law requiring police agencies to record the race of all motorists involved in traffic stops revealed that the Cook County Sheriff's Police pulled over fewer minorities per capita than any department in the state.

16. Will you participate in the Federal government's "voluntary" interrogation of young, male immigrants, students and tourists?

No. I believe only suspects and witnesses of specific crimes should be interviewed by the Sheriff's Police.

17. What steps will you take to document, reduce and prevent brutality by law enforcement and correctional officers?

I have made two major proposals to prevent excessive force incidents at Cook County Jail. First, I proposed installing video surveillance cameras throughout

the jail to monitor the conduct of officers and to record a visual account of any incident that occurs. Secondly, I have proposed the department adopt comprehensive psychological screenings of all potential employees to help weed out individuals who are prone to use violence.

18. What will you do to stop/prevent strip-searching of women detained for traffic violations and other misdemeanors?

I will employ new technologies, like Ion detectors, to search female detainees for drugs, weapons and other potential contraband. These high tech devices are capable of detecting microscopic traces of drugs or metal on search subjects. Ion detectors are no more evasive than airport metal detectors.

19. What plans do you have to improve county correctional facilities and their administration?

In addition to the proposals detailed in answers #17 and 18, I will also employ new technologies to make other improvements in operations at Cook County Jail. I will use a computerized tracking system that will keep tabs on all employees and inmates as they move throughout the facility by placing microchips in all employee and inmate i.d. cards, which employees and inmates are required to wear at all times. This will prevent escapes and provide more employee accountability. Also, to make visitation easier for inmate families and to cut down on the number of people moving in and out of the jail, I plan to implement remote visitations. This program will allow family members and friends of inmates to use video conferencing to visit their loved ones from suburban courthouses and other remote locations.

20. Do you support home monitoring or other alternatives to incarceration for pre-trial detainees?

Yes. These alternative programs are crucial for controlling overcrowding at the Jail.

21. Do you support separating violent from non-violent offenders?

Yes. The above mention alternative programs should be made available for non-violent offenders, while violent offenders must remain behind bars. When non-violent offenders do not qualify for alternative programs, I believe they should be housed separately from violent inmates.

22. Do you support separating juvenile from adult offenders?

Yes. State law requires separating juvenile and adult offenders, which is why the Sheriff's Office is *not* responsible for running the juvenile detention center.

23. What proposals do you support to reduce overcrowding at Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center?

I believe alternative programs like electronic monitoring and day reporting should be utilized. The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program has also been effective in

reducing overcrowding by providing judges with a community service program they can sentence non-violent offenders to instead of jail time. Further more I intend to work with the community to reduce recidivism through educational programs and other effective programs. I will form a Ministers Advisory Board that will consist of local community leaders that will assist my staff in evaluating which programs are effective and which ones simply are not.

24. Are educational and vocational programs in the Juvenile Detention facilities adequate? If not, how would you improve them?

Again, the Sheriff's Office does not run the Juvenile Detention Center. Therefore I do not feel I am in a position to assess these programs.

25. Do you support expansion of the County Boot Camp program?

The Boot Camp has provided a number of first-time offenders with a second chance and has enabled them to turn their lives around. However, I do not plan to expand the program at this point.

26. What is your view of the DARE program?

I believe it is important for law enforcement agencies to reach out to young people and attempt to prevent drug use and other criminal conduct. DARE is one of many programs that accomplish this function.