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February 28, 2014

We believe that great organizations always look for ways to improve and to adapt to a constantly changing environment. If ILEAS is to remain relevant and nimble so that it can better serve its member agencies over the long term, it must be constantly reviewing its operation, reaffirming its foundational values and ensuring that it is on solid legal and financial footing.

ILEAS has been in existence for over ten years. We believe it is time for enhancements. Over the last year, the ILEAS Governing Board and the staff have reviewed operations, foundational documents and financial status. Our review revealed that while ILEAS is currently in good shape, there are areas where we could improve. For instance, the online resource database needs updating with better technology and expansion to cover equipment and resources that may not have been available early in ILEAS' development.

The most important change ILEAS is undertaking is the improvement of the mutual aid agreement. Everything ILEAS does is based on that agreement. Over 900 agencies have signed the original agreement which has stood the test of time for ten years. However, after a very detailed internal examination based on experience AND after extensive support and advice from a number of legal experts, ILEAS has developed the next generation agreement!

This new ILEAS agreement builds on the strengths of the original agreement and puts ILEAS on more solid legal footing. It provides capabilities, such as the ability to amend the agreement, that were previously unavailable. ILEAS is not changing the most important roles it has played in mutual aid and the support of local law enforcement. In fact, for you as a law enforcement executive, not much changes. You can still request and respond to mutual aid incidents, the reimbursement and the insurance arrangements do not change, the Governing Board still operates as usual and the ILEAS special teams remain as they are. The new agreement augments ILEAS' legal footing and more specifically acknowledges that ILEAS was being created to oversee the logistics of statewide mutual aid. It provides more specifics on exactly how the Governing Board operates.

We are asking all of our member agencies to adopt this new agreement. ILEAS' goal is to have all the current member agencies adopt the new agreement within a year. This should be a relatively simple process for you. It is particularly important that the new agreement be signed by an official with the legal authority to enter into the agreement on behalf of your public agency. For the vast majority of our members that will be a village president, mayor, city manager, county board chair, etc. Remember, ILEAS was formed pursuant to the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and is an agreement between all of the public agencies that sign the agreement.

Also, don't worry, your original agreement is still in effect until you adopt and sign the new one. We have built into this agreement what we believe to be all the tools that you need to ***reaffirm and strengthen your commitment to the ILEAS concept of "Strength Through Cooperation!"***

In the packet you received, we have provided:

- The new Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement
- A sample resolution for your use if necessary
- An explanatory document which outlines:
 - what ILEAS is and historically how we came to develop a new agreement
 - the differences and similarities between the new and old agreements
 - a step-by-step process for completing the transition

If you want more copies of the explanatory document for your local officials, they will be available. Simply feel free to reach out to your Regional Planning Coordinator or the ILEAS administrative office in Urbana and we will send them to you directly.

If you, your local public officials or legal advisors have any questions whatsoever, do not hesitate to reach out to us and we will do the best we can to provide the answers. If you want your local Regional Planning Coordinator available to attend city/village/county board meetings to answer questions, that can be arranged as well.

It is our hope and belief that the value ILEAS offers to your agency is well worth the time and effort to adopt the updated agreement. Thank you for your time, consideration and support to strengthen ILEAS so that the best mutual aid system in the country will be there when you need it.

Respectfully,



David Snyder
Stephenson County Sheriff
ILEAS President



Jim Page
ILEAS Executive Director