



For Immediate Release
June 26, 2012

Kelley Quinn
kquinn@cookcountyassessor.com

Statement from Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios:

"I am aware of the notice of findings issued by the Cook County Board of Ethics dated June 20, 2012. However, I have only heard of this report through the media after this "confidential" document was leaked to the Chicago Sun-Times.

In fact, as of Tuesday afternoon, June 26th, I still have not received an official notification from the ethics board. It is a shame that I have to hear details of this matter through the press without being provided an official copy of their findings or any explanation of what evidence the Board considered in arriving at its decision. This is not conduct that I would expect from a panel charged with enforcing ethics in the county.

The board's notice of violation is inconsistent with the position it took seven months ago in connection with the application of campaign finance limitations to independently elected officials such as me. The Board of Ethics conceded that the campaign finance provisions in the County's ethics ordinance did not apply to independently elected officials. The ordinance either applies to the independently elected officials or not, and the Board of Ethics should not be allowed to pick and choose when it's applicable.

Previous State's Attorney's opinions dating back to 1994 have concluded that the County's ethics ordinance does not apply to independently elected officials, and we believe the same is true in this matter. In the meantime, my attorney will be waiting for an official notice from the ethics board so that it can be properly reviewed."