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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

THOMAS G. BRUTON
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
 v.)
)
 WILLIE B. COCHRAN)

No. **16CR 808**

Violations: Title 18, United States
Code, Sections 666, 1343, and 1951

JUDGE ALONSO
MAGISTRATE JUDGE WEISMAN

COUNT ONE

The SPECIAL JUNE 2015 GRAND JURY charges:

1. At times material to this Indictment:
 - a. The City of Chicago was a unit of local government known as a municipal corporation, and a political subdivision of the State of Illinois.
 - b. The City of Chicago's legislative branch of government was the Chicago City Council, which was comprised of fifty City Council members, each of whom represented one of Chicago's fifty wards, and who were also known as Aldermen. The Aldermen were compensated and publicly elected.
 - c. Defendant WILLIE B. COCHRAN was Alderman of the 20th Ward in Chicago.
 - d. It was one of the functions of Aldermen to issue letters that communicated aldermanic support or non-support for real estate development projects proposed for land located in their respective wards, which letters were instrumental in securing governmental action or inaction relating to the proposed projects.
 - e. The federal government created the Neighborhood Stabilization Program ("NSP") to assist communities affected by foreclosure. The City of Chicago