



### III. THE FACTS

According to prosecutors, Griffin was the mayor of Ford Heights from May 2009 to May 2017. Soon after Griffin left the mayoral office, the Village discovered irregular activity in two accounts at BMO Harris Bank under the Village's name that did not appear to have been previously disclosed to the Village Trustees and or its employees. The matter was referred to law enforcement officials and an investigation was initiated.

During the investigation it was determined that three BMO Harris Bank Accounts in the name of the Village of Ford Heights existed. One account was opened on April 10, 2010. Griffin was a signatory on this account. A second account was opened on December 1, 2014 with Griffin as the only signatory and the address listed on this account is Griffin's personal residence. The third account was opened on October 1, 2014, listing Griffin as a signatory, with Griffin's personal residence as the listed address.

A review of the BMO Harris account that was opened on December 1, 2014 revealed that approximately \$34,679.50 was deposited into this account during the relevant period. This account was funded primarily by transfers from the other two BMO Harris Village accounts or by warrant (check) deposits from the Illinois Treasurer's Office, which represented the Village's local share of video gaming tax. Other deposits that were made payable to the Village were from various entities.

According to prosecutors a further analysis of this account revealed transactions which appear to be for the personal expenses of Charles Griffin. These expenses include but are not limited to debit card transactions at numerous entities such as Walmart, Home Depot, Menards, F.A. Fitness, and various restaurants and other establishments. In total, Griffin used approximately \$134,584.50 for his own personal expenses. In addition, Griffin cashed checks totaling approximately \$13,124.41 that were made payable to the Village of Ford Heights at a currency exchange located in Chicago Heights, Illinois. The funds from these checks were for his personal use.

In addition, the investigation revealed that a Certified Public Accounting ("CPA") firm had been engaged to conduct an audit of the Village's financial records, beginning with the fiscal year ending April 30, 2015, and subsequent years. Personnel from the CPA firm indicated that they were not aware that any BMO Harris Bank accounts existed until after their audit of fiscal year ending April 30, 2017, after Griffin was out of office. No one from Griffin's administration ever mentioned the existence of a BMO Harris account to the CPA firm during their audit engagement.

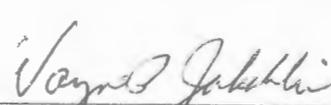
IV. BOND RECOMMENDATION

Section 5/110-5 of the Illinois Code of Criminal Procedure sets forth criteria relevant to determining the amount of bail and conditions of release. 725 ILCS 5/110-5. In particular, the Court may take into account the sentence applicable upon conviction. Based upon matters discussed herein, the People of the State of Illinois recommend that this Honorable court set a substantial bond commensurate with the offenses described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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