

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Cops are next on the “Fang” list

All of you in law enforcement are embattled. There is a jihad against public sector workers in Illinois and there has been a constant barrage of news stories on how your pensions are unfair and need to be reformed. Management has convinced the press of this and they have now grabbed the bullhorn shouting the same refrain: “Reform police, fire and teachers’ pensions!” This, they feel, will save the politicians in every municipality from themselves.

Of course, you all know managements’ need to extort you by asking you to give up pay and benefits to help out their fiscal irresponsibility. If you don’t give up your hard-earned pay and benefits, then they threaten to cut jobs. The venom that drips from their fangs is very potent. It is designed to kill your pensions.

I’ve known that they possess poison but never to the degree I see it dripping now. Layoffs not only screw over cops, but the communities they serve as well. Safety will be compromised. To hide their gaffes and get re-elected is their primary motivation, and you, my fine friends, are their pawns to do just that.

One day before pensions were “reformed” in Illinois for teachers, legislators, judges, and a slew of others, I submitted the below letter to the **Herald News**. Nobody saw it coming because your assembly leaders saw fit to ram this one through both chambers as quickly as possible. This one hits home in Du Page County, where a lot of wasteful spending goes on. It’s all over—not just in Du Page County, and you can find it if you look. Send us examples if you find any.

One day later, a pension reform bill was passed by both the House and Senate in the Illinois General Assembly. That was faster than State Senate President Cullerton got a law pushed through protecting horses from being killed and shipped out for consumption a few years ago. Amazing, and just think what a visit from Bo Derek (a horse lover) did to get that bill passed. Did she come out for pension reform, too? Maybe we should do whatever we have to do to get her on our side—because Mr and Ms Policeman, you are next. The fangs are out and they have you in their sights.

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Are we getting this right? Du Page County spends \$364,000 to attorneys at \$500 per hour to determine why \$19 million in funds is missing from the Du Page Water Commission?

Jeffery Ortinau
Legal Advisor

Recently the City of Naperville spent about \$1.5 million for their attorneys to fight a \$139,000 lawsuit from one of their own councilman. Du Page County and the Sheriff's office spent almost \$1 million over eight years to prevent their police and court officers from organizing; a litigation they ultimately lost while their attorneys benefited from Du Page taxpayers' money. I could continue, but I trust that everyone sees that there is no recession when it comes to wasteful government spending. Just like the dot com bubble and the mortgage bubble, I believe we have an ongoing municipal management bubble.

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Many in government, not only in Du Page, have mismanaged not only public funds, but the public trust, which has resulted in massive deficits in their budgets. Instead of taking responsibility, government demands that pensions be reformed and concessions made by employees who work tirelessly in our communities. Cities won't give up owning a golf course and banquet facilities (as in Bolingbrook) or real estate ventures, and they refuse to stop spending vast amounts of money for village parties, fireworks displays, and other unnecessary expenses.

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Instead, it's layoff the police and other public service workers unless they give up their pay so they can provide a stimulus package to our local governments. To heck with safety. Have they asked their attorneys to take some concessions? No recession there, folks. This management problem will continue as long as those in power refuse to take ownership of the problems they caused and quit blaming their employees because government has mismanaged and misspent taxpayers' money.

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