

SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION AGENDA

June 18, 2013

323680

CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ON THE SEVERITY OF WORKERS COMPENSATION FRAUD (PROPOSED RESOLUTION). Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by Stanley Moore, County Commissioner.

CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ON THE SEVERITY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

WHEREAS, worker's compensation benefits are a form of insurance providing wage replacement and medical benefits to employees injured in the course of their employment; and

WHEREAS, there are many legitimate worker's compensation cases, but still, millions of dollars are spent every year, at all levels of government, to pay out fraudulent cases of worker's compensation; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has spent, on average, \$20 million a year on worker's compensation cases; and

WHEREAS, the Worker's Compensation Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office defends cases before the Industrial Claims Commission that are believed to be non-compensable; and

WHEREAS, in light of the recent articles and news stories, including the story of one (1) person that allegedly referred to himself as the "duty injury king" and the burden it places on the tax payers of Cook County, the County needs to educate employees on the seriousness of such claims; and

WHEREAS, employees that boast about filing fraudulent worker's compensation, may not understand the severity of the penalties for such fraudulent claims; and

WHEREAS, the penalties for workers compensation fraud, as laid out in 820 ILCS 305/25.5 can range from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class 1 felony, depending on the amount of money involved in the fraud; and

WHEREAS, an awareness campaign, educating employees on the severity of the penalties for such fraud, should deter employees from filing fraudulent worker's compensation claims, potentially saving the County millions of dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that the Department of Risk Management, the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney and the Office of the Inspector General work together on an awareness campaign, educating Cook County employees on the severity of fraudulent worker's compensation claims and the possible penalties associated with such claims.

***Referred to the Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation on 5/29/13.**