



Kendall County

Office of the Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

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Shooting Range Insurance Accusation

At the Kendall County Board meeting on March 5, 2019, an accusation was made alleging that Kendall County and the Kendall County Sheriff's Office did not have insurance for the Sheriff's Office shooting range located at 6925 Route 71, Oswego, Illinois. This same accusation was made by the same individual on March 1, 2012, and at that time it was confirmed the County was insured.

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies utilize this shooting range and have been since 1993. In 1993, Kendall County and the Kendall County Sheriff's Office partnered with the railroad and their police force to leased 3.5 acres from the railroad for the purpose of firearms training for the County, State and Municipal police agencies. The lease was again updated in 2012. The relationship between Kendall County, Kendall County Sheriff's Office and the Railroad Police force has saved taxpayer dollars every year since 1993 in training costs.

Some local police agencies that utilize the range are: Kendall County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office, Oswego Police, Yorkville Police, Plano Police, Montgomery Police, Aurora Police, Waubensee Campus Police, Naperville Police, Forest Park Police, DuPage County Sheriff's Office, LeLand Police, Sandwich Police, Suburban Law Enforcement Academy and Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad Police Department. All but 2 of these agencies we have trained and worked with for public safety, to include the most recent tragic event in the City of Aurora on February 15, 2019. All of the aforementioned agencies sign a firing range use

agreement that indemnifies and holds harmless to the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, Kendall County and all of their agents, officers and employees from any and all liability, loss, costs, damages and expenses that may arise from using the shooting range.

The shooting range is inspected by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board each year. The last inspection was July 25, 2018 and it passed the inspection standards. As part of the inspection process we are required to provide proof of insurance, which we do, each year to the State.

As previously stated the property is leased and we have no permanent structures, therefore we do not have or are we required to have property insurance. As part of the lease Kendall County is required to have the following types of insurance and the minimum amounts: Workers Compensation and Employer Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000), General Liability Insurance (\$2,000,000), Business Automobile Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000) and Umbrella Liability Insurance (\$4,000,000). Our insurance meets or exceeds the minimum amounts as required by the lease contract. Senior Vice President Todd Greer of Insurance Program Managers Group stated in an email, "Our policy responds if it is required by contract to indemnify the property owner (which it does) so the railroad is good. We do not limit the territory and a shooting range is not an excluded action so full liability limits would apply to the County operating the shooting range."

"All training for law enforcement is very important, especially use of force that involves firearms. We want to provide valuable and necessary training that will assist our deputies in the performance of their duties", added Sheriff Dwight Baird.