Dear Residents and Businesses of Sauk Village,

The past events of Civil Unrest spawned from the George Floyd incident goes without saying that this was something that went beyond the reason of peaceful protests. Groups such as ANTIFA, and other nefarious groups known for inciting riots and activity that promotes criminal activity in times of peaceful protest have been involved in previous attacks mostly on major cities across the Country. These recent events are proving to be no different.

At the onset of this civil unrest event, myself along with our Police Chief Malcolm White and
other first responders in Sauk Village were involved in a briefing and meeting with other Mayors, Illinois State Police, Cook County Police, and other agencies what provided useful guidance and direction with resources and planned responses should such civil unrest come to our towns, villages, and cities.

One of the first things that is held in the strictest of confidence is Policing strategies, staffing, and tactical strategies. This information is kept confidential for the main reason of officer safety, as well as tactical advantage. While there were isolated incidents of "copy cat" crimes committed by what is only best described as misguided and persuaded individuals, and arrests by our Police Department have been made.

While some of our Trustees have made statements on Social Media stating they feel left out of a process, this again is by design.
Information and planned response strategies are kept in confidence to emergency personnel only to preserve their safety, and tactical advantage.

Sauk Village Police Chief Malcolm White took appropriate measures to ready our Police Department for any escalation in the civil unrest should it become necessary. Fortunately, our Police Department was able to handle the isolated incidents we did experience.

As Mayor of Sauk Village, the safety of all citizens is my duty, and ultimate responsibility especially in times of emergency and in times of civil unrest. And I take that responsibility very seriously.

Per Division 3 of our Municipal Code, concerning Curfew as defined in section 50-365; which reads
"It is unlawful for a person less than 18 years of age (the minor) to be present at or upon any public assembly, building, place, park, sidewalk, street, or highway or other public place at the following times:

(1) Between 11:00 p.m. Friday and 6:00 a.m. Saturday;(2) Between 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 6:00 a.m. Sunday;(3) Between 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday inclusive, and 6:00 a.m. on the following day."

The issuance of any further curfews would not have stopped criminals from committing crimes as we have seen from TV News Reports across the Country. Protesters that marched PEACEFULLY were not breaking the Law to begin with, but exercising their First Amendment Rights through assembly of peaceful protest, and abide by normal curfews should they be under age 18. And that is a
GOOD EXAMPLE of organizing peaceful protest. However there will always be groups and persons that are less sincere in their methods that feel destroying property and looting is the answer. And as they are brought to justice, they will be held accountable for their actions by Law Enforcement.

I wish to thank the residents of Sauk Village for their continued support and cooperation during these extraordinary times, and a special thank you to all of our first responders who have done an AMAZING JOB under these trying times. I am constantly reminded how fortunate we are to have such professionals serving our community.

Respectfully, I remain

Mayor Derrick N Burgess