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MEDIA RELEASE

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VILLAGE SUCCESSFULLY SETTLES LITIGATION AGAINST LIDO MOTEL Owners Agree to Village Demands to Deter Criminal Activity

Franklin Park, IL - Village President Barrett Pedersen announced today that the Village prevailed in their legal efforts to have the owners of the notorious Lido Motel comply with changes in their business practices. The owners capitulated to the demands brought forth by the Village of Franklin Park in a lawsuit filed last year to abate a public nuisance based upon ongoing activities on the property. The owners agreed to specific demands by the Village and a settlement agreement was entered addressing the Village's demands. The case was dismissed without prejudice pursuant to the settlement agreement and if the owners violate this order, they will be held in contempt of court.

"We are thrilled that the owners of the Lido Motel gave in to our demands to make significant business changes that will contribute to ending this blight on our community and to stop the constant assault on our family values," stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "For 40 years the Mannheim Sin Strip has been a source of crime at our community's expense. The Lido Motel has been a prime offender serving as a haven for prostitution and drugs and seen as untouchable in an outlaw area of the County. With this consent to our demands, they will begin to clean up their business practices and make improvements that will greatly benefit our community."

The Lido Motel, located at 2415 Mannheim Road in unincorporated Cook County, has been a long time haven for prostitution, drugs and other illegal activities.

The Motel is located just outside the Village and because of that the Village cannot levy fines against the property and they have no authority to control or eliminate the activities at the Motel. Police can only respond to emergencies but cannot be pro-active, nor regulate activities. Despite these obstacles, the Village was determined to address this ongoing situation and filed suit under common law powers.

Lawrence Andolino, the Village's attorney on this matter, negotiated with the owners of the Motel to address several areas of concern that the Village believes helps to perpetuate on-going criminal activity at the site. The owners capitulated to Village demands that they take action to address the lack of exterior cameras on the site and provide sufficient exterior lighting. The owners also agreed to cease business policies that allow room rentals on an hourly basis, which encourages prostitution and other illegal activities. In addition, the owner, who resides out of state, must require management to cooperate with Village law enforcement by conducting regular meetings with the Police Department to discuss preventative measures and help identify criminal suspects and activities. The Village also demanded that specific offenders be barred from the premises.

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By forcing the owners to agree to improvements, the Village has been able to accomplish something that Cook County has not been able to achieve through arrests or building code enforcements. It has been a constant challenge for the Village of Franklin Park and other surrounding communities to control illegal activity in this unincorporated area of the county.

This settlement was beneficial to the Village, saving thousands in potential legal fees for a trial and a possible appeal.

“By initiating this litigation, Mayor Pedersen was able to send a message to businesses located outside Village limits that if you endanger the health and safety of our residents, we will utilize every tool available under the law and all avenues of legal action to protect the residents of Franklin Park,” stated Lawrence Andolino. “Being located in an unincorporated area will not shield businesses from operating under the standards the Village of Franklin Park demands of businesses located within the Village limits”.

“Due to the legal efforts brought forth by the Village, this public disgrace will be forced to clean up their operations,” said Pedersen. “Our primary duty is to protect the health and welfare of our citizens. Our decisive action will lessen the possibility that this disgusting and illegal activity will spill over into our community and threaten the safety of our citizens. We have sent a message that we will not allow businesses to operate under conditions that facilitate criminal activity near our borders.”

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