



Press Release

Date: September 21, 2017

To: Local newspapers and media outlets; Village website

Re: **Statement from the Village of Willowbrook regarding a Lawsuit Filed in Federal Court – The Chicago Gun Club**

The Village has been named in a federal lawsuit filed on August 18, 2017 pertaining to the failure to approve The Chicago Gun Club zoning application. The lawsuit alleges that the Village Board's decision to deny the zoning application was *arbitrary and capricious* (meaning, the decision was not based on the relevant facts of the case). It is also alleged that the denial is a violation of the applicant's 1st and 2nd amendment constitutional rights.

In January 2016, The Chicago Gun Club, LLC submitted an application seeking to re-zone a vacant property located at Route 83 Frontage Road & 79th Street and obtain a Special Use Permit (SUP) to construct and operate a luxury indoor firing range, referred to by the applicant as a "gun-try club." On April 5, 2017, after a continued public hearing seeking feedback from the community, the Village Plan Commission voted 5 to 0 to recommend approval of the project. The Village Board received the Plan Commission's recommendation on April 10, 2017. The Board considered the application at regular meetings held on April 24, 2017 and May 22, 2017. Both meetings were heavily attended by the public and approximately eight-thirty (83) public comments were heard by the Board, the majority of which were opposed to the development. On May 22, 2017, a motion to approve the project failed by a 2 to 4 vote of the Trustees. Therefore, the project request was denied.

The complaint has been referred to the Village Attorneys for review and defense. The Village's risk management provider has assigned defense counsel. It is the Village's policy not to comment on pending litigation.

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Local Contact:

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