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For Immediate Release

September 25, 2018

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PRESS RELEASE

Village of Lemont Home Rule Referendum

On the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot, the residents of the Village of Lemont will have the opportunity to answer a question on home rule through a binding referendum. The Mayor and Village Board chose to give its residents the opportunity to consider becoming home rule as a way to obtain additional revenue streams in order to maintain current level of police and public works service, along with maintaining the Village's roads and water system.

Currently, the Village is a non-home rule municipality under the Illinois Constitution, meaning that the Village can only authorize those powers which are expressly granted by the State of Illinois. Pursuant to the Illinois Constitution, home rule municipalities may exercise any power and function pertaining to its government and affairs. Home rule status can only be achieved through voter approval or the certification of a population above 25,000 residents.

The Mayor and Village Board pledge to utilize home rule powers only to the extent deemed necessary with a view to the long-term impact upon the community. The Village has experienced significant revenue stream declines over the last several years, including a reduction in state shared income and motor fuel tax along with other revenues. The Village has cut personnel and other costs over these years and must now address the future needs of the Village.

Utilizing home rule authority, the board would have flexibility to consider additional revenue streams, ones that shift the burden to non-residents. To take advantage of existing retail and growth in the area, the board intends to impose a 1 percent home rule sales tax on most purchases in Lemont other than qualifying food, drug and medical expenses. The additional funding would be allocated towards investment in our roads, water system and other infrastructure. Home rule would also give the Village Board flexibility to consider other user fees and revenue streams which tend to impact non-residents.