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Dear Sheriff Dart,

We are calling on the Sheriff of Cook County to **stop carrying out all eviction orders effective immediately**. Cook County, and the state of Illinois as a whole, needs to institute an immediate moratorium on evictions. We are calling on Sheriff Dart, Governor Pritzker, the state legislature, and Chief Judge Timothy Evans to implement immediate measures to: stay all eviction orders, adjourn cases rather than issuing defaults, and provide litigants with the opportunity to appear by video. We call on Governor Pritzker, the state legislature, and Chief Judge Timothy Evans to close housing and eviction court immediately.

Eviction moratorium plans are already underway in Miami Dade County, San Jose and San Francisco. Many more cities, states, and counties are expected to follow. Cook County should lead this charge. The Federal Courts in Illinois are taking new measures, as is DuPage County.

There are roughly 80,000 homeless people living in Chicago alone and they are ill equipped to deal with a highly contagious disease. Each eviction places already vulnerable seniors and people with health issues - their families and everyone they come into contact with in the court system - at further risk. Mayor Lightfoot and Governor Pritzker have urged Illinois residents to limit nonessential commuting. Where will people quarantine if they contract this virus, and lose their home? We need an immediate moratorium on all evictions.

Now is the time for the city of Chicago, Cook County, and the state of Illinois to act by protecting its most vulnerable residents. Our government can mitigate this risk with urgent and sensible actions. While we wait on Governor Pritzker, the state legislature, and Chief Judge Timothy Evans to act on the state level, Mayor Lightfoot can act on the city level. The mayor can and should institute a moratorium on all CHA eviction-related cases in public housing.

We must protect tenants who are disproportionately poor, black and Latino, immigrants, LGBT people, seniors, people with disabilities, and women. We must institute an immediate moratorium on evictions for the same reasons that we already institute one during the winter months. The public health risks associated with homelessness and the real risks to life make this decision absolutely necessary. Please act now.

With the utmost urgency,

The Metropolitan Tenants Organization