Chi Hack Night (http://chihacknight.org/) is a group of thousands of designers, academic researchers, data journalists, activists, policy wonks, web developers and curious citizens who strive to make our city more just, equitable, transparent and delightful to live in through data, design and technology. We volunteer every week to build tools to support and serve the public good. Open government data makes it possible for us to do this work.
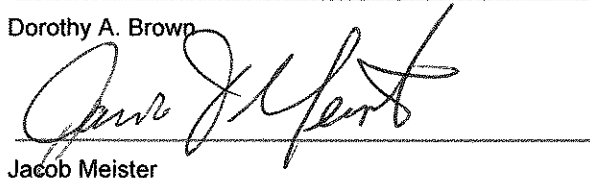
PLEDGE

Releasing open data is essential for government to be transparent and accountable to its constituents. It provides the public with information they need and are legally entitled to without having to request individual records. Open data is a proactive way to share data with citizens, reporters, and other government agencies.

The Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court is the primary repository for all court records in the largest consolidated state court system in the country. It has data on a wide variety of cases that are critical for the public to have ready access to. I recognize that providing access to public data creates a transparent and accountable government and that easily accessible, timely, public data from the Clerk's office is critical to the judicial process and to public scrutiny of the legal system.

If I am elected I will adopt and provide funding for an open data policy that includes a presumption of openness[1] [2] and release all of my office's data – including data provided from contractors – to the extent permitted by law and subject to valid privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions. It should be opened according to the eight principles of open government data[3].

SIGNATURES

Dorothy A. Brown

Michelle A. Harris

Jacob Meister

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[1] Cook County, Illinois Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-5. - Open government plan., accessed Feb 12, 2016 <https://www.municode.com/library/il/cook_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIGEOR_CH2AD_ARTIINGE_S2-5OPGOPL>

[2] Memorandum from the Executive Office of the President Barack Obama: "Open Data Policy-Managing Information as an Asset"; May 9, 2013 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-13.pdf>

[3] "8 Principles of Open Government Data", accessed Feb 4, 2016 <https://public.resource.org/8_principles.html>