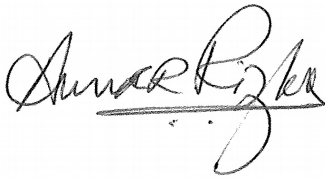


A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another such certificate.

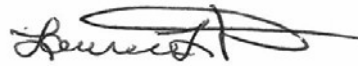
The County also received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its fiscal year 2018 annual budget document. To qualify for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the government's budget document had to be judged proficient as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The preparation and completion of this CAFR represents the culmination of numerous efforts by many County employees, and the cooperation and assistance of the various accounting firms engaged to audit the County's operations. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of our staff, the staff of the certified public accounting firms of RSM US LLP, Washington, Pittman & McKeever, Prado & Renteria, Legacy Professionals LLP, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP, Mitchell Titus and the staff of the County Auditor for making this report possible. Credit also is due to the President and the Board of Commissioners for their unfailing support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of Cook County's finances.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ammar Rizki', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ammar Rizki  
Chief Financial Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence L. Wilson', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Lawrence L. Wilson, CPA  
Comptroller