



16250 S. Oak Park Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
www.TinleyPark.org

Village President

Jacob C. Vandenberg

Village Clerk

Kristin A. Thirion

Village Trustees

Cynthia A. Berg
William P. Brady
William A. Brennan
Diane M. Galante
Michael W. Glotz
Michael G. Mueller

Village Hall

16250 S. Oak Park Ave.
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Administration

(708) 444-5000
Fax: (708) 444-5099

Community Development

(708) 444-5100
Fax: (708) 444-5199

Public Works

(708) 444-5500

Police Department

7850 W. 183rd St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
Non-Emergency
(708) 444-5300
Fax: (708) 444-5399

John T. Dunn

Public Safety Building
17355 S. 68th Court
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Fire Department

Non-Emergency
(708) 444-5200
Fax: (708) 444-5299

EMA

(708) 444-5600
Fax: (708) 444-5699

Senior Community Center

(708) 444-5150



November 22, 2019

Cathy Stepp
Region 5 Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Cod R-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
Stepp.cathy@epa.gov

John J. Kim
Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
John.J.Kim@illinois.gov

Re: Illinois State Mental Health Facility (Closed 2012)

Dear Ms. Stepp and Mr. Kim,

We are writing to you on behalf of the nearly 60,000 Tinley Park residents that we represent to ask for your agencies to act and address the immediate threat to the environment, health, and welfare caused by the abandonment and disregard by the State of Illinois of the unsecured, nearly 280-acre former Mental Health Facility in Tinley Park, Illinois. The Village is asking you to immediately secure the site with fencing and a locked gate, remove the overgrowth, contain the friable asbestos, and remove the hazardous materials. In addition, the Village is asking you to investigate and remediate the site.

The State Mental Facility (the "site") is made up of at least 45 buildings and miles of tunnel with friable asbestos (damaged due to abandonment, lack of maintenance, theft, and vandalism); 10 fuel underground storage tanks (three with reported releases, unaddressed since 1996); five above-ground storage tanks; at least three landfills; 22 State of Illinois-owned transformers; one lime pit; three outdoor drum accumulation areas; one above-grade florescent light bulb fill; 95 fifty-five gallon drums of hazardous materials; and hundreds more containers containing hazardous materials.

The State of Illinois walked away from this property, its structures, and all its contents in 2012. The State of Illinois left the property unsecured with no fencing, and has allowed brush and weeds to become overgrown, providing a natural cover to unauthorized entrants to the site. Theft, vandalism and litter on the site— and numerous videos loaded onto [YouTube](#) of the site— are evidence of such entry. Furthermore, the State of Illinois has not reported the site's hazardous chemical inventory.

In other words, seven years ago the State abandoned the site, leaving it open, unlocked, and overgrown. The State has allowed a public and private nuisance to exist; open and unsafe buildings to decay; and an imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment from solid waste, hazardous waste, and hazardous materials on-site. As part of its investigation of the site for potential purchase the Village hired an environmental consulting firm who prepared a hazardous materials survey accessible for review at [this link](#).



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Cc:

The Honorable
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

The Honorable
Dick Durbin
United States Senate
230 S. Dearborn Street
Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

The Honorable
Bobby Rush
United States
House of Representatives (IL-1)
11750 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60643-4732

The Honorable
Daniel William Lipinski
United States
House of Representatives (IL-3)
6245 South Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

The Honorable
Emil Jones III
Illinois State Senate
14th District
507 West 111th Street
Chicago, IL 60628

The Honorable
Michael E. Hastings
Illinois State Senate
19th District
20855 South LaGrange Road
Suite 102
Frankfort, IL 60423

The Honorable
Robert Rita
IL House of Representatives
28th District
2355 West York Street
Suite 1

The Honorable
Margo McDermed
IL House of Representatives
37th District
11032 W. Lincoln Highway
Frankfort, IL 60423

The Honorable
Debbie Meyers-Martin
IL House of Representatives
38th District
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JB Pritzker
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Mr. Matthew Perez
State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

Mr. Justin DeWitt
Chief of Staff
Illinois Department of
Public Health
525-535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761



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The State's failure to act over a substantial length of time causes significant and substantial interference with the person, property, health, safety or comfort of others, and is a threat of imminent and substantial endangerment to health and the environment. The Village asks you to act immediately to secure the site with fencing and a locked gate, remove the overgrowth, contain the friable asbestos, prevent migration of hazardous substances through stormwater, and remove the hazardous materials. In addition, the Village is asking you to investigate and remediate the site. The things we are asking the State to fix (and the U.S. EPA to step in and address, if the State will not) are the 101's of due care. Please call our Village Manager's office at 708-444-5017 to set a date and time for us to meet and discuss the response plan.

Sincerely,

Jacob C. Vandenberg
Mayor, Village of Tinley Park

Kristin A. Thirion
Clerk, Village of Tinley Park

Cynthia A. Berg
Trustee, Village of Tinley Park

William P. Brady
Trustee, Village of Tinley Park

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