

PROBLEM:

Since December 1996, the County has reimbursed jurors at a rate of \$.20 per mile for their travel expenses. The mileage distance is computed from the juror's postal zip code to downtown Waukegan's zip code. The range is 6 - 60 miles (round trip distances). When the mileage reimbursement is tied to the daily juror fee rate, the total amount of compensation paid to Lake County citizen jurors is the lowest in the Chicago-land area as outlined in the attached newspaper article.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The court's need for jurors will remain fairly constant or increase slightly as Lake County's population continues to grow.
2. Service as a juror provides the average citizen with a unique opportunity to participate in and see government in action.
3. It is equitable to compensate citizens serving as jurors at a reasonable rate.
4. Since 1996, the judiciary has requested financial support from the county to increase the rate of compensation. These requests were rejected due to financial limitation of the county.
5. The Court's Strategic Plan and the County's Strategic plan both enumerate objectives dealing with supporting our customer base - our citizens.

FACTS:

The County pays grand and petit jurors, as well as coroner inquest panels a fixed sum for each day they attend court and a mileage fee per state statute (55ILCS 5/4 - 11001). The County Board sets the both rates. Currently, jurors are paid \$5.00 a day for days 1 and 2; \$7.50 for days 3, 4 and 5; and, \$10.00 for six or more days for their jury service. They are also reimbursed \$0.20 per mile for travel. The current mileage reimbursement rate the County pays jurors is far less than the rate it reimburses County employees, County Board Members, County advisory boards and committees. Since 1996, the juror fees and mileage have cost the County an average of \$220,000 per year. This reimbursement rate has been in effect since 1996.

DISCUSSION:

Other than paying taxes or responding to traffic tickets, most citizens do not have direct contact with Lake County government. Each year since 1996, approximately 24, 500 citizens have been summoned for jury duty. Of those summoned, approximately 7,500 - 9,000 have served each year.

Jury service provides citizens with the opportunity to see their democracy in action and play a major role in promoting its values. Most citizens serving as jurors

willingly accept the inconvenience and low pay of jury service. In FY-01. The County reimbursed \$104,853.40 to jurors for 524,267 miles driven at the \$0.20 per mile rate.

If jurors were to be reimbursed at the current County employee rate of \$0.365, which represents an **82.5% rate increase**, the mileage budget would have to be increased by **\$86,504.00**. This level of increase may be difficult for the County to accept.

Staff analyzed various options that would reduce the financial impact to the County yet provide a direct benefit to our jurors/citizens. Staff prepared a chart that displays the current mileage rate, posted mileage, number of gallons of fuel a juror could purchase with the fees they receive and the total number of miles one could drive based on gallons purchased. The chart is labeled: **Attachment 2**. The chart reflects that the current amount of money a juror receives for mileage does cover all driving distances, and in many cases, they can purchase a great deal more fuel than what is actually needed to come to the courthouse.

Staff prepared a chart, labeled **Attachment 3**, which established a flat rate by distance zones. The chart identifies six flat rate zones, projects the number of miles a juror could travel with the fuel purchased using the flat rate, the number of jurors coming to the courthouse by zone and the financial impact on the budget. The analysis projects that if this plan were approved, we would save **\$26,890** dollars.

Staff also determined by conducting limited research, that we could never pay jurors enough money to satisfy their real hour/daily value. It was also learned that jurors appreciate the small things that the system does for them while here in the courthouse - reading materials, computers, videos, comfortable seating and the like. With this in mind, staff reviewed some options to provide additional items like the ones suggested and determine that providing a lunch voucher would be well received by the jurors and cost much less than increasing the mileage reimbursement rate. The vouchers would be provided only to those jurors serving an entire day at the Courthouse. It is estimated this would require 9,750 lunches/year. At the cost of \$5.00/meal, this would equal an increase of \$48,750/year.

In order to implement both plans, the budget would need to be increased by only **\$21,860**. This is equal to the meal increase of **\$48,750** minus the savings in mileage of **\$26,890**. This concept would be **\$64,644 less** than increasing the mileage rate and be better received by the jurors.

This request supports the Court and County's objective of increasing service to citizens and by improving partnerships by giving citizens better service while in the government complex.

CONCLUSION:

This plan provides for better treatment of our jurors/citizens while serving on jury duty for only an additional **\$21,860**. If approved, staff will need to develop the logistical process to make this work efficiently, because only the jurors who serve through the lunch hour will be entitled to receive the lunch voucher. Staff will also have to reformat payment stubs so they accurately reflect the true compensation a juror received. These minor details would not impact current operations. Lastly, this effort would remove Lake County and the Circuit Court from the bottom of the list of juror reimbursement as noted in the Chicago Tribune article.

RECOMMENDATION:

On behalf of the Court, staff strongly encourages the County Administrator to support this request for FY-03 with the Law & Judicial Committee, Finance & Administrative Committee and the full Lake County Board.

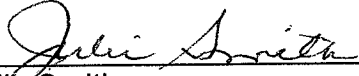
It is further recommended that the required additional funds needed to implement this request be taken out of the additional revenue that will be realized by the increase in court filing fees.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

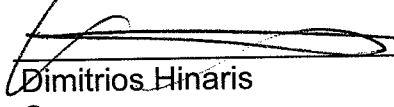
This Memorandum is provided to outline the details of adding service by Elliott's Off Broadway Deli (Elliott's) for Lake County Jurors' meals. It is the intent of the 19th Judicial Circuit in Lake County, IL to provide all approved jurors with a cost free meal for each full day of service they provide. The 19th Judicial Circuit will pay Elliott's an amount not to exceed \$5.00/juror/day. The following stipulations are required:

- The 19th Judicial Circuit will provide Elliott's with sufficient computer equipment to record each meal provided to jurors. The juror badge number will be the identification number used.
- Elliott's will scan the juror badge and enter the amount of their purchase up to a maximum of \$5.00. Elliott's will record exact amounts of the purchase. Any cost over \$5.00 will be the responsibility of the individual juror.
- Elliott's will provide a billing statement at the end of each month for payment of the prior month's meals. It is understood that Lake County is a tax-exempt body and as such, will not be charged applicable taxes. Taxes may apply to purchases by an individual juror's purchase over the \$5.00 maximum.
- Bills will be submitted to: Judicial Budget/Finance Unit, Courts Administration, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, IL 60085.
- In addition, Elliott's has agreed to discount the purchase price by 10% (ten percent) to be applied to each monthly billing.

All stipulations above apply from the first day of start-up (approximately January 6, 2003) through Elliott's agreement for cafeteria services with Lake County.



Julie Smith
Judicial Budget/Finance Manager
19th Judicial Circuit

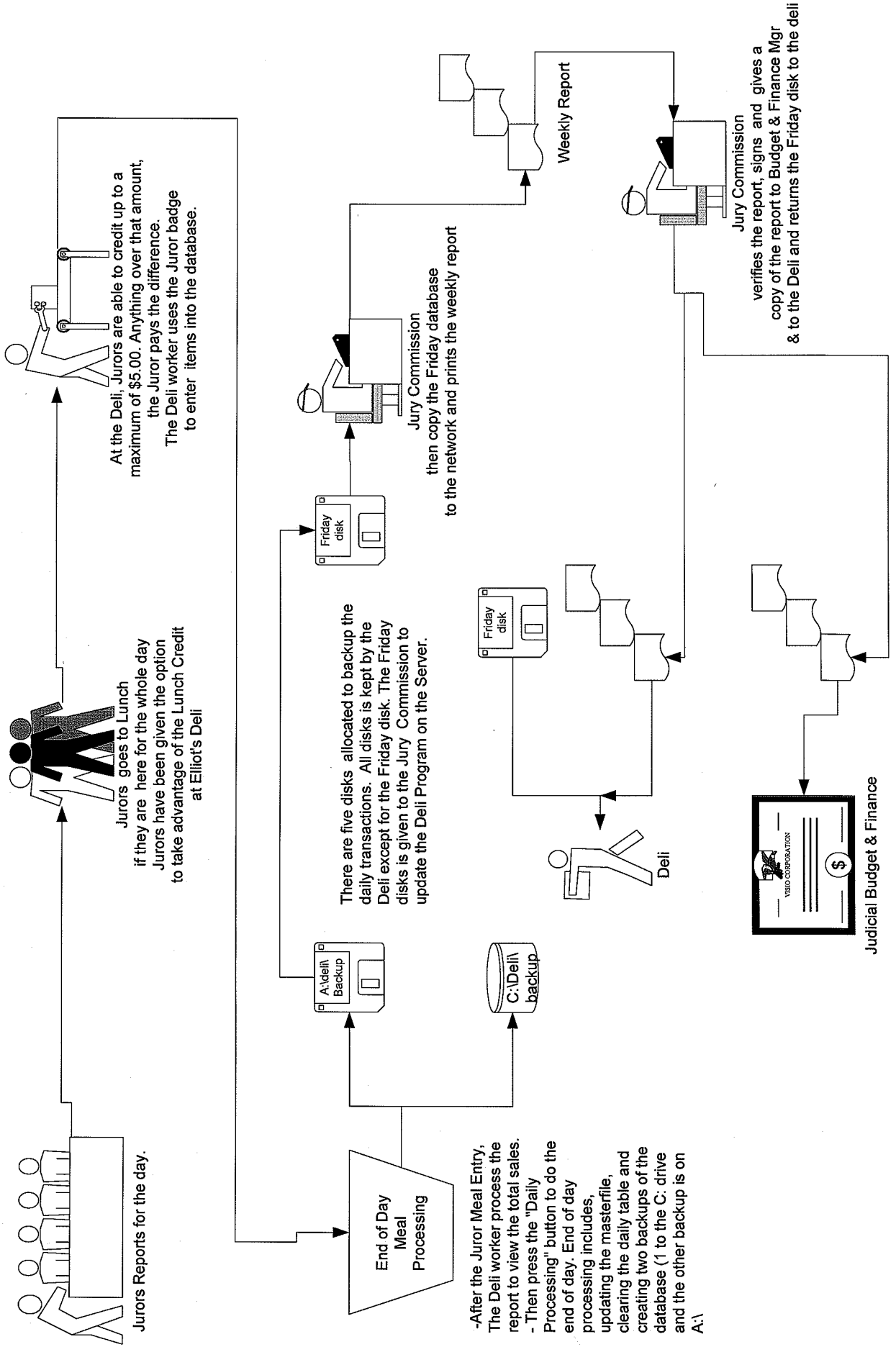


Dimitrios Hinaris
Owner
Elliott's Off Broadway Deli

Date: 12-31-02

Date: 12-31-02

Juror Lunch Credit Workflow





**CIRCUIT COURT
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**The Chambers of
CHRISTOPHER C. STARCK
Chief Judge**

**18 North County
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377.4500
FAX (847) 249.8442
TDD (847) 360-2975
EMAIL: CHIEFJUDGE@CO.LAKE.IL.US**

March 3, 2005

Barry Burton
County Administrator
18 North County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear Barry,

It is my understanding that some County Board members, specifically Bob Sabonjian, have questioned information that is being given to jurors regarding the safety of downtown Waukegan. In addition, the Board, or just Randy Whitmore and Bob Sabonjian would like to eliminate the juror lunch program if the cafeteria located in the County facility remains. Any adverse information being given to jurors is not coming from court staff. Consider that:

- During the orientation process jurors are instructed: "Generally, between 12 & 1:30 you can leave the area. Several restaurants in the area are within walking distance as well as a deli in the building. Menus and maps are displayed on the counter. We're happy to help direct people at lunchtime". This quote is taken from the prepared notes that are read each and every time jurors are oriented. In addition, my court staff are not the only individuals that interact with the jurors – deputies, court security, clerks and

others. It should be noted that when jurors were parking on the corner of Washington and Sheridan, we did brief the jurors to walk in groups in the evening hours or request an escort from court security.

- Available in the jury assembly room's countertop are menus from the following Waukegan restaurants: Aunt Obie's Ribs & Soulfood, Casa Bonita, China Garden, Coffee Grounds, Hillery's, Kong's, Louie's, Madison Avenue, Mike's Pizza, Potesta's, Quonset, Shirl's, Uptown Café, Waukegan Yacht Club. Our policy is and has been to display any menus that are provided. Vendors are responsible for maintain current menus reflecting current menu selection and pricing.
- Attached to the counter in the jury assembly office is a color coded map of downtown Waukegan which displays the following restaurants: C and J's, Casa De Samuel, China Garden, El Andojito Bakery, El Buen Gusto, Javelin, Kong's, Madison Avenue, McDonalds, Monster Sandwiches, Plato's, Poppy's, Taqueria Guerrero, Uptown Café, Wendy's.
- During the past 2 years, jurors took advantage of the lunch option 56% and 59% of the time. The cost for juror lunches was \$31,987 and \$44,009 in 2003 and 2004, respectively. If the lunch option was not available and all jurors received \$5 per day, based on the number of juror days the cost would have been \$63,570 in 2003 and \$78,740 for a cost savings of \$66,314. In addition, the average cost per meal has been below the budgeted \$5.00 (2003 - \$4.42, 2004 - \$4.73, and 2005 YTD -- \$4.78), so the actual cost of the program is below the budgeted amount of \$5.00. This

translates to a budget savings of \$7,128.58 in 2003, a \$2,499.93 in 2004 and \$273.46 YTD.

- Variables to note: Jurors parking in the new garage need to get their parking tickets validated if they leave the garage for lunch. This has made it more apparent if jurors are leaving the area at lunchtime. Staff's guesstimate is that approximately 15 – 20% leave the area. Jurors often run errands during this time, go home if they live in the area, go shopping, meet friends, family or associates for lunch, and the like.

Not only has the lunch program resulted in significant cost savings these past two years, but also the goodwill it extends to the jurors is incalculable. Jurors can be limited to a one-hour lunch, particularly if the judge is in trial and requires the jurors to return at 1:00 p.m. The deli provides a convenient location to allow the jurors an opportunity to get some lunch thereby eliminating court delay from jurors who may not be able to walk to a downtown location or to their vehicles and drive to a location within the one-hour lunch break.

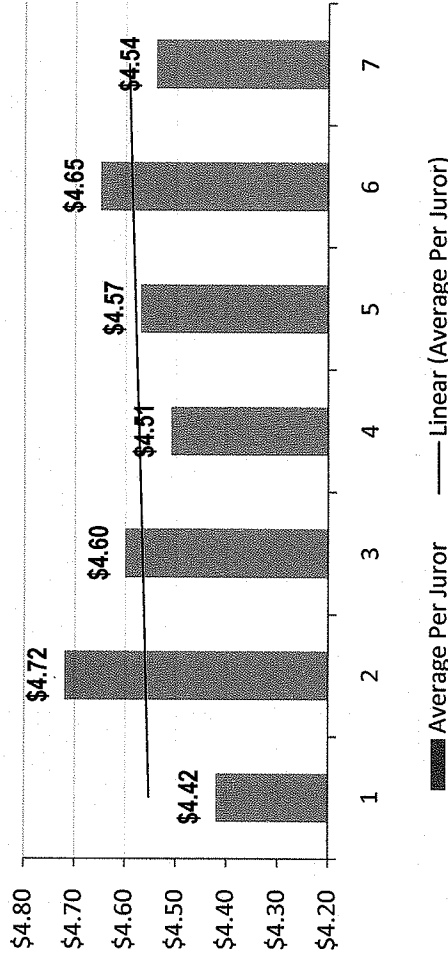
I know you will agree this program is excellent in many ways. Court staff takes great pride in managing this program, so much so that when comments like the ones made yesterday come to their attention, they take it personally and work feverously to justify their actions. It should be noted that a number of counties have contacted our staff to learn how they could replicate this unique program and better serve the citizens we call to duty.

If you have additional questions, concerns or need additional information, please feel free to discuss them with Bob Zastany.

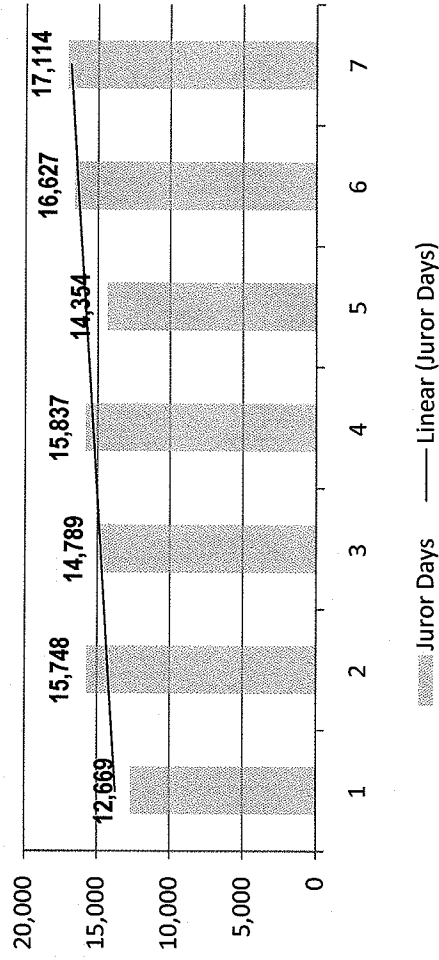
c: Pete Austin, Assistant County Administrator
Robert Zastany
Richard Krause

Year	Total Lunches	% Taking Advantage	Cost	Average Per Juror	If \$5 -- Difference	If \$5 -- Difference Cost	Projected \$5 Cost	Juror Days	Projected Total 100% Paid \$5/day	Grand Savings Difference	Total Number of Judges
2003	7,128	56%	\$31,387.19	\$4.42	\$0.58	\$4,134.24	\$35,521.43	12,669	\$63,345	\$31,957.81	32
2004	9,259	59%	\$44,031.30	\$4.72	\$0.28	\$2,592.52	\$46,623.82	15,748	\$78,740	\$34,708.87	32
2005	9,286	63%	\$42,390.52	\$4.60	\$0.40	\$3,714.40	\$46,104.92	14,789	\$73,945	\$31,554.48	32
2006	10,763	68%	\$48,622.06	\$4.51	\$0.49	\$5,273.87	\$53,895.93	15,837	\$79,185	\$30,562.94	36
2007	9,777	68%	\$44,735.14	\$4.57	\$0.43	\$4,204.11	\$48,939.25	14,354	\$71,770	\$27,034.86	36
2008	11,634	69%	\$54,141.11	\$4.65	\$0.35	\$4,071.90	\$58,213.01	16,627	\$83,135	\$28,993.89	36
2009	11,078	64%	\$50,680.17	\$4.54	\$0.46	\$5,095.88	\$55,776.05	17,114	\$85,570	\$34,889.83	36

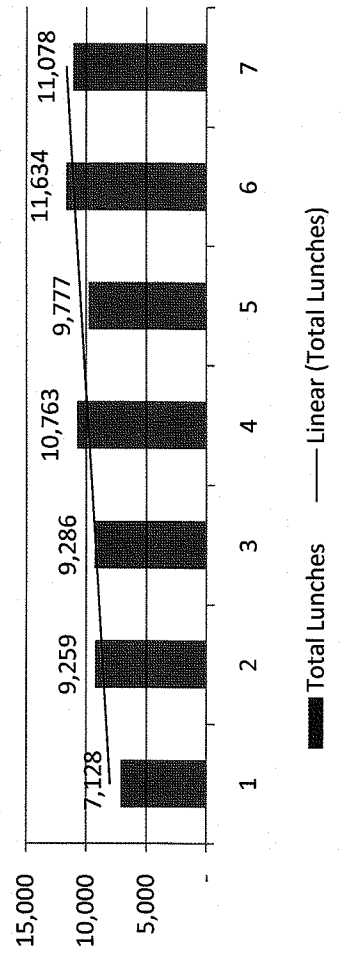
Average Per Juror



Juror Days



Total Lunches



Cost

