

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF



DEWAYNE E. HOLBROOK
CHIEF OF POLICE

COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S POLICE DEPARTMENT

1401 SOUTH MAYBROOK DRIVE
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TELEPHONE: (708) 865-4700

Dear Cemetery Owners,

August 26, 2009

As you are probably aware the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department has been involved in an extensive investigation of several cemeteries with a great deal of resources devoted to a specific one. We write to you due to the fact that your cemetery is located in unincorporated Cook County and therefore any need for police action would be directed to this Department. This letter is intended to be informational only. All cemeteries in unincorporated Cook County are receiving this same letter as you.

Like you we believe in the dignity and the sanctity of those who have died and have been interred. More importantly the law has recognized those principles and has embodied those beliefs in statutory language and resulting case law. As a law enforcement authority we have to uphold the laws and in these type of cases protect the interests of those who have died and those who wish to visit their deceased loved ones. People have a right to visit a loved one with the expectation that in fact that person is buried there. We are sure you agree with this principle.

When a citizen reports finding what they believe to be a human bone in a cemetery you can expect an investigation to follow. We will take a report and then make a determination with the assistance of an expert as to whether the bone is human. If in fact the bone is human a much more detailed and extensive investigation needs to be done. We will expect your cooperation in determining and explaining the existence of a human bone being found above the ground. At the least we will do a further search for possible additional bones and seek various documents from you. We have become quite familiar with the relevant records which should be kept in regards to cemetery care.

Hopefully you nor a visitor at your cemetery will not be in need of police assistance for any reason. As it relates however to found human bones or issues related to that we must work together to assure the public that those laid to rest in fact remain there with all the dignity and respect one would expect. Evidence of unexplained human remains being found raises the concerns of everyone who has loved ones buried in the cemetery where the bones are found. We would encourage you to avoid this situation by exercising due care and diligence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian White".

Brian White
Investigations Commander
Cook County Sheriff's Police Department
1-708-865-4896