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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

“As the President stated in his press conference yesterday, he has authorized the release of his 2007 and 2008 tax returns. Unlike his opponents who only talk about being transparent, the President practices transparency. President Stroger has been thoroughly vetted since his election in 2006. We’d like to see the same standards applied to his opponents.

During this campaign, there have been numerous allegations made about his opponents’ conflicts of interest. **From Clerk Brown taking cash stuffed envelopes from her employees for Jeans Day and other activities and saying that she properly reports the gifts on her federal tax returns, to Mrs. Preckwinkle and members of her family doing business with the real estate developers in her ward.** The Alderman consistently paints herself as an independent with a broad coalition of support. Does that coalition include everyday working people or is she beholden to a group of particular real estate developers? Mrs. Preckwinkle, this isn’t a publicity stunt. As a former history teacher, in the words of Titus Maccius Plautus (254 B.C.-184 B.C), “Practice yourself what you preach”. It’s a request for you to practice the transparency you preach in all of your interviews and campaign appearances and put to rest any and all allegations.

**Mr. O’Brien stated on the record in an interview with Jeff Berkowitz that he “would be happy to” release his returns.** Now all of a sudden, he’s “too busy running his campaign” to release them? We would say to Mr. O’Brien, what are you hiding since you agreed to release them on September 24, 2009, what has changed? Don’t you think the voters have a right to know about the potential conflicts that may exist in your companies doing business with vendors of the Water Reclamation District? Or are there other things you are hiding from the voters?

The voters need all the information in order to make the right decision on February 2nd. Voters need to know President Stroger is the real independent in the race for Cook County Board President. The residents of Cook County need to know that President Stroger isn’t being supported by “the Machine” in this race but is being supported by the community, religious leaders, and elected officials, county wide because they know he’s been fighting to help those that need it most.”

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