



Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *PUK*

DATE: September 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

2012 PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT APPLICATIONS. On August, 5, 2011, the Planning Department released the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service applications. The application deadline was September 7, 2011. The Planning Department received 36 applications from area social service agencies totaling \$1,323,511 in funding requests. For 2012, staff estimates \$261,594 will be available for public service programs, projected from the 2011 public service funding level. The Human Resource Commission (HRC) will make their funding recommendations at their October 21, 2011 regularly scheduled meeting, with scheduled City Council agenda for November 8, 2011.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS. The FY 2010 CIP included a project for improving the railroad crossing on Radnor Road. Since then, the crossing on Pioneer Parkway has also deteriorated to the point that it is also in need of repair. Railroad crossings are typically specialty work performed by contractors that focus on that type of work or they are improved by railroad staff. Negotiations took place with the Pioneer Railroad but did not yield a satisfactory proposal for them to do the work. A Request for Proposals was solicited by the City on August which requested a complete turn-key proposal for work at both Pioneer Parkway and Radnor Road. Unfortunately, no proposals were submitted.

Engineering staff has recently been contacted by a new WBE company specializing in crossings and hopes to receive a proposal from them in the near future. If a reasonable contractual arrangement can be negotiated, this may be brought to the Council for consideration in October. Public Works crews have made temporary repairs and placed warning signage at the Pioneer Parkway crossing.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2011 TGF WASHINGTON REPORT. The August – September 2011 TGF Washington Report is included in this week's Issues Update for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

PROPOSED FENCE REGULATIONS. This is a reminder that the Neighborhood Meeting to Discuss Proposed Fence Regulations will take place Monday, September 19, 2011, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in City Council Chambers. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Smith 494-8612 or Leah Allison 494-8667.

PROJECT NEWSLETTER RIDGE ROAD SIDEWALK & LIGHTING PROJECT. Included in this week's Issues Update is the Ridge Road Sidewalk & Lighting Project Newsletter for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

CITY OF PEORIA DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA) PROGRAM – ACTIVITY UPDATE. The City of Peoria Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program provides up to 20% of the purchase price of a property,

with a maximum amount of \$10,000, to income-eligible homeowners. The Program is available Citywide to first-time homeowners. In addition to Federal funds, the City has received a down payment assistance grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). The City was awarded \$249,000 in IHDA down payment assistance funds in 2009. The IHDA grant, in combination with the City's HUD funds, will increase the amount of grants available for individuals. As of September 2011, the City has provided \$467,100 of grant funds to 44 property purchases, which represent a total of approx. \$3.4 million in housing sales. The attached map identifies the location of the properties assisted with DPA funds. Further, the chart below totals the properties per Council District:

Council District 1	Council District 2	Council District 3	Council District 4	Council District 5	TOTAL
0	10	20 *including 1 purchase in the Glen Oak School Impact Zone*	12	2	44

Staff attributes the success of the program to its increased marketing, partnership with local lenders and Realtors and the increasing need for down payment from individuals as lending regulations have become more stringent. Funds are still available for new applicants and staff anticipates the program to be continuous for 2011. Applications and Program Guidelines can be obtained from the Department of Planning and Growth Management (PGM). Any individual interested in applying or would like additional information should contact Nicole Frederick, Grants Coordinator at 494-8606 or nfrederick@ci.peoria.il.us.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT. On Monday, September 12, 2011, President Obama sent the full text of his proposed American Jobs Act to Congress. The attached guide (**Electronic Copy Only**) reviews the major components of the bill from the perspective of local government and explains how your community may benefit from the different elements of the package. This guide was produced by The Ferguson Group.