



Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *PUK*

DATE: December 2, 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.

JOINT CITY/COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA. Included for your review is a copy of the Joint City/County Legislative Agenda for your review. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. located at Brewer's Distributing. If there are additional items you would like to add, please contact me so that we may include these items.

HUD EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM. Action upon direction from Congress, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development has been working on the conversion of the existing Emergency Shelter Grant Program to a new Emergency Solution Grant Program. Although the focus of the new program will continue to be services for homeless and near-homeless persons, the eligible activities and reporting requirements have changed.

HUD released the interim regulations on the new program earlier. The final regulations will go into effect in 30 days. As part of the planning effort for the launch of the new program, HUD held back a portion of the 2011 ESG funding so as to provide entitlement jurisdictions with available funds at the time of the release of the new regulations. The City of Peoria will receive \$47,801 in additional funding through this supplemental release. The projected total new ESG funding level for 2012 is \$135,000, approximately a \$50,000 increase over our traditional annual allocation.

In order to utilize the new supplemental allocation of ESG funds, the City must develop a program, process a Substantial Amendment to our HUD Annual Plan, which must be approved by Council and by HUD prior to any services being offered. City Planning Department staff will begin to work on this process as soon as guidance is released by HUD.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OPINION. On November 15, 2011, the Illinois Attorney General issued an Opinion holding that electronic communications pertaining to public business which are sent from or received by an electronic device owned by a member of the public body, rather than the public body itself, are public records which are subject to disclosure under FOIA. A complete copy of that Opinion is included. **(Electronic Copy Only)** Note that it is a final administrative decision which may be reviewed by the Court under the Administrative Review Law. The City of Champaign would have to initiate such a review. This means that Council Members' public business messages on their private email accounts are subject to FOIA requests. We need to follow this Opinion unless we are prepared to litigate the issue.

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT 3RD QUARTER REPORT. The Peoria Park District's 3rd Quarter Report for 2011 is attached in this week's Issues Update for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

DECEMBER 2011 CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT. The December 2011 Capital Projects Report is included in this week's Issues Update for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

NOVEMBER 2011 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER (ECC) REPORT. The November 2011 Emergency Communication Center Report **(Electronic Copy Only)** is attached for your review.