



Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *PUK*

DATE: January 13, 2012

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 TOTER CART PROGRAM. Peoria Disposal Company (PDC) is working to implement the Toter Cart Program for 2012. The attached post card **(Electronic Copy Only)** will be mailed shortly to residents in Peoria explaining their choice in Toter Cart size. As noted on the post card, if a resident does not respond to PDC before the carts are distributed they will default to receiving a 95-gallon size cart.

CODE ENFORCEMENT AREAS RECONFIGURED. Code enforcement areas have been reconfigured and divided into ten areas to align with current staffing levels. Attached is a map **(Electronic Copy Only)** that identifies the new areas and the inspectors assigned to them.

NON-OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTY REGISTRATION FEES. As part of the 2012 budget process, the registration fee for non-owner occupied properties was increased to \$50 per property. However, if property owners or their authorized agents attend one free training session, they will receive a reduced rate of \$25 per property. Topics to be discussed at the training session include property maintenance codes, the self-inspection process, and chronic nuisance laws. In addition, tips will be offered by experienced landlords as it regards lease language, the application process, tenant screening, the eviction process, running a successful rental business, and how to protect your rental investment.

Training sessions will be held at the Gateway Building, 200 NE Water Street, Peoria, Illinois. Listed below are Open Training Session Dates:

- January 30, 2012 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- February 3, 2012 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- February 8, 2012 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.

CITY OF PEORIA DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA) PROGRAM – SUMMARY OF 2011 ACTIVITIES.

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 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 the programs.

At the end of 2011, the City has provided \$612,980 of the grant funds to 62 property purchases, which represent a total of approximately \$4.6 million in housing sales. Assisting 62 properties in one calendar year is a Departmental record for the program.

The attached map **(Electronic Copy Only)** 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 |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | 13 | 26 *including 1 purchase in the Glen Oak School Impact Zone* | 18 | 4 | 62 |

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 the individuals as lending regulations have become more stringent.

Funds are still available for new applicants and staff anticipates the program to be continuous for 2012.

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.

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT 2011 4TH QUARTER REPORT. The Peoria Park District 4th Quarter 2011 Report for activities performed under the contract between the City of Peoria and the Peoria Park District regarding Riverfront and Gateway events is included for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**