



Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *PU*

DATE: February 10, 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.

SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD. Emergency Communications Telecommunicator, Cindy Avery, received the Illinois Sheriff's Association Telecommunicator of the Year award on February 6, 2012. Cindy was nominated by Peoria County Sheriff Michael D McCoy. Cindy Avery is a 23 year veteran of the City of Peoria Emergency Communications Center (ECC) where, by choice, she has worked third shift for most of her career to conscientiously ensure that the job is done correctly, with little supervision. As one of the senior telecommunicators on the shift, she routinely provides guidance to staff members and is known for going above and beyond to ensure that the customer, police officers and firefighters receive outstanding service.

On October 10, 2010 Cindy was working the Peoria County Sheriff's Department console when she received a phone call from a citizen reporting a reckless driver that might be intoxicated. Cindy stayed on the phone with the caller for over 20 minutes as she worked with officers to get them to the correct location in order to stop the vehicle. Eventually, the driver of the vehicle was stopped in another County which required Cindy to work not only with Peoria County deputies but other Counties as well. On May 7, 2011, Cindy handled another call for service from a mother stating her daughter lived in Peoria County and was suicidal. The mother did not know the address and had only a phone number; while Cindy worked with several resources, she was able to locate an address for the daughter. Police and Fire/EMS were sent to that address where they found the daughter had taken an overdose; an ambulance was able to safely transport her to a hospital. These are two examples of the work performance Cindy does each day as she works diligently behind the scenes to do the job correctly, with little fanfare. She cares about the police officers, firefighters, EMS workers and the citizens we serve.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION. Next week, Good Energy will be mailing the attached postcard (**Electronic Copy Only**) to all registered voters in the City of Peoria and other communities with whom they are working. This mailing is the next step in their media campaign in support of the March 20, 2012 referendum on municipal electricity aggregation.

2012 HUD FUND ALLOCATION TO THE CITY OF PEORIA. HUD released 2012 funding levels this week. The City of Peoria will have a 9% reduction in CDBG funds, a 40% reduction in HOME funds, and a 16% increase in ESG funds. The table below indicates the dollar change from the budgeted 2012 levels to the actual 2012 levels.

Fund	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	Change
CDBG	\$1,743,964	\$1,589,868	(\$151,023)
HOME	\$796,432	\$481,835	(\$314,597)
ESG	\$130,000	\$154,096	\$21,023

HUD has indicated that there are two reasons for the change in funding from 2011 levels. First, the overall allocation of funds by Congress was lower than last year. Second, for the 2012 allocation, HUD started to use the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) data from the Census Bureau versus the 2000 Census data and projections that had been the basis for all allocations for the past decade.

The ACS data indicates that Peoria is quite stable in terms of housing and poverty needs relative to many other cities. This stability, and in some cases, reduction in “need,” plus the flat population numbers relative to some other cities, resulted in a negative impact on our funding formula.

The reductions in CDBG and HOME funds will directly impact all of the programming that is offered by the City using these funds. While the reduction in CDBG funding levels may be able to be absorbed without a significant impact, the 40% reduction in HOME funds will impact all, and most likely eliminate some, of the programs that have historically been offered using HOME funds. A revised budget will be brought to Council in March.

REMINDER REGARDING OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS. The Legal Department is rerunning the reminder concerning the Open Meetings Act Training requirement for elected officials. It first ran in the December 29, 2011 Issues Update. Council Members have until December 31, 2012 to complete this on-line training. One additional note concerning the training is that it applies to Members to the City’s Boards and Commissions. Those Boards and Commissions are public bodies under the Open Meetings Act and those Members are also required to complete training in 2012.

2011 ANNUAL ZONING COMMISSION REPORT. The Annual Zoning Commission Report is prepared for the Zoning Commission and City Council to provide a summary of the year's activity for text amendments to the Codes, type and number of Zoning Commission cases, evidence of trends for variations, waivers, and deferrals, and a brief synopsis of zoning violations. The report can assist with evaluating the effectiveness of the Zoning Ordinance, Land Development Code, zoning review processes, and the Comprehensive Plan. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

PURCHASING DIVERSITY EVENT. The City of Peoria, on March 14, 2012, along with the County of Peoria, Peoria Housing Authority, Peoria Park District and CityLink will host the fifth annual government purchasing diversity event at the Gateway building from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The purpose of the free event is to expand procurement and bid opportunities with Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) by connecting them with local government purchasing representatives. M/WBEs will be provided information on each governmental unit’s procurement and bid process. Including the sponsors, over fifteen municipalities have been invited to be exhibitors. The Illinois Department of Revenue will also be presenting an informational workshop on 2012 Illinois tax law changes impacting businesses. Council members are encouraged to stop by and experience the event. **(Flyer Attached, Electronic Copy Only)**

CHANGES IN OFFICE SPACE. The Public Works Department has now completed its move from City Hall and the entire Department is relocated at the City's Dries Lane Operations & Maintenance Facility (3505 N. Dries Lane). Contact phone numbers are 494-8800 and 494-8850.

The 2012 Community Investment Program for the City includes funds for the improvement to Room 404 at City Hall, consequently, this room will be renovated to match the décor of the previously remodeled spaces completed in 2009 at City Hall. While this work is in progress all meetings scheduled for Room 404 will be held in Room 203. During this same time period, the office space formerly used by the Economic Development Department will be made available for the Human Resources Department. Completion of this move will empty the 3rd floor making this space available for the current occupants in the Twin Towers (Planning & Growth Management and Inspections/Code Enforcement). Final office layouts have not been prepared as yet but will be developed while the other moves and renovation work are in progress. Final relocation of all Twin Towers staff to City Hall should be completed this summer.

FEBRUARY 2012 CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT. The Capital Project Report for February 2012 is attached for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

JANUARY 2012 THE FERGUSON GROUP (TFG) WASHINGTON REPORT. The January 2012 Ferguson Group Washington Report is attached for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

FEBRUARY, 2012 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UPDATE. Included in Issues Update is February, 2012 Workforce Development Council Update for your review. **(Hard Copy Only)**