



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: March 28, 2013

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.

City Receives 2013 Allocation of Volume Cap

Each year the City of Peoria receives, from the State of Illinois, an allocation of Private Activity Bonds, also known as Volume Cap. The amount of allocation is calculated by multiplying \$95 by the population of the City of Peoria as listed in the *State of Illinois Guidelines and Procedures for the Allocation of Private Activity Bonding Authority*. On February 26, 2013, the Peoria City Council passed Ordinance #16,933 reserving its 2013 Volume Cap of \$10,947,230.

Private Activity Bonds are exempt from federal income tax once they are in the hand of the holders, thus lowering the cost of capital to the borrower. Another benefit of the Bonds is long term financing, usually more than 20 years. Projects that may be eligible to use Private Activity Bonds are: industrial, manufacturing, and low or moderate income housing projects.

In addition to this notice, staff will place notice in the Peoria Journal Star to advise the public that this bonding capacity is available and to ask anyone interested in utilizing the Volume Cap to contact the Economic Development Office. The City will post another notice in the late fall if the Cap has not been utilized at that time.

For questions on the Volume Cap or the Assist Program, contact Leslie McKnight in the Office of Economic development by phone at 494-8651 or email at lmcknight@peoriagov.org.

Notice of State Mandated Enterprise Zone Report for Businesses

Earlier this month, the State of Illinois sent notice that businesses which have received any Enterprise Zone benefit during 2012 must file an online report with the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) no later than May 29, 2013, per State Statute.

Since the State will not be notifying businesses of this requirement, the Economic Development Office has sent notices to businesses via email, regular mail and through the Chamber of Commerce. Staff is also asking for help in getting the word out. Anyone that knows of a

business that received an Enterprise Zone benefit between 1/1/2012 and 12/31/2012, please advise the business to go to the City's website at www.peoriagov.org, where a link on the front page titled "Notice of State Mandated Enterprise Zone Report for Businesses" will provide more information on this very important report.

To review the mandatory report, visit the section titled "Enterprise Zone Business Report" at <http://tax.illinois.gov/Businesses/NewEnterpriseZoneReportingInformation.htm>. Reports can then be filed by using the link at the top of the page titled "click here to file your report on-line."

Failure to comply with this new regulation could result in the loss of Enterprise Zone benefits and other penalties. Any questions about the new reporting requirements should be addressed to the Illinois Department of Revenue at www.tax.illinois.gov or by phone at 800-732-8866.

Homeless Point-in-time Count and Street Sweep - Results

The Heart of Illinois Homeless Continuum of Care (HOIHCO), which covers the four county areas of Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford and Fulton, conducted a one-night count of homeless persons on Thursday, January 24, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

This count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all Continuums to receive funding to assist the homeless in their service area. The homeless count data will also be used as a strategic tool to assess the extent of the problem, plan the service delivery system and to enhance both new and existing programs and services for the Continuum service area.

Volunteers, including officers from the Peoria Police Department, visited libraries, hospitals, bus stops, 24-hour restaurants and other locations to find homeless individuals. Additionally, volunteers counted individuals currently housed in homeless shelters. A short survey was conducted for each individual which gathered demographic information of the person and corresponding households.

In total, 568 individuals including both adults and children were counted during the event. Of these individuals, 540 were housed in homeless shelters; representing 72% occupancy rate for the total beds available within the service area of the Continuum. Of the 540 individuals in homeless shelters, 472 were housed in Peoria County.

A total of 28 individuals were found "unsheltered" to which volunteers provided referrals to agencies and support services.

Below is a chart of the subpopulations of the individuals who were counted.

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Veterans	63	3
Female Veterans	3	1
Severely Mentally Ill	144	7
Chronic Substance Abuse	182	4
Persons with HIV/AIDS	16	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	77	2
Total	485	17

****Please note that not all individuals counted during this event must fit into a Homeless Subpopulation****

Below is a chart that represents the household structure of the individuals who were counted.

Households with at least One Adult & One Child	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Total Number of Households	41	2
Total	130	2
Households without Children	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Total Number of Households	230	22
Total	230	22
Households with Only Children	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Total Number of Households	5	0
Total Number of One-Child Households	3	0
Total Number of Multi-Child Households	2	0
Number of Children in Multi-Child Households	7	0
Total	5	0

****Please note that household structure often includes multiple individuals****

For more information, please contact Nicole Frederick, Grants Coordinator, at 494-8606 or nfrederick@ci.peoria.il.us.

Peoria Riverfront Activities

During the March 12, 2013 Council meeting, several questions were raised related to the programming of activities on the riverfront. An inquiry was made to the Park District for information related to these questions. Please find below the response that was received.

Year Round Programming

We have explored many ideas for continuing the programming (year round) at the Riverfront. We have discussed this at Peoria Riverfront Association Meetings, Riverfront Program and Advisory Meetings and at informal get togethers. The ideas that have

received the most traction are: Ice Skating, fireworks, Ice Sculpture Contests etc. While these are cool ideas they will require someone to subsidize them.

Another concept that has been discussed and has merit is taking on a themed night/weekend approach. This would involve all the interested restaurants or bars marketing the same theme for the weekend (Mardi gras, Super Bowl, St. Patrick's Day). They each do things individually now but if we could get everyone to work together I think it would be successful. It would also be a program that the participants could fund.

Probably could use another brainstorming session to come up with new ideas, wouldn't mind if a couple of the Council Members wanted to sit in.

Event Breakdown

Each year the Riverfront hosts a wide range of events and draws thousands of visitors. Here is a breakdown of the events we currently (more are added daily) have on the books for 2013.

# Days	Event	Estimated Attendance
18	Riverfront Market	36,000
44	Building Steam Pre Race	11,000
36	Building Steam Post Race	12,000
40	Outdoor volleyball	4,000
3	Erin Feis	15-20,000
3	Oktoberfest	15-20,000
2	Rivercity Soul Fest	5-10,000
1	India Fest	2,000
1	Fiesta en el Rio	2-4,000
2	Rivercity Blues Fest	5-10,000
1	Grand Nationals	10-15,000
24	Misc. Runs/Walks	18,000
13	Misc. Events	5-15,000
21	CEFCU Concerts	24,000
8	CEFCU Jazz Nights	3,200
1	Fireworks	125,000
1	July 5 th Show	10,000
3	Steamboat Days	25,000
1	Steamboat Classic	15,000
2	Universal Rhythm	5,000
1	Taste of Peoria	25,000
2	Art Festival	40,000
228		412,000

If you are trying to come up with a more precise activity number you could add about 25 more days for set ups/tear downs. We could also add to the attendance for the hundreds of people who use the trail every day. You could also add the people who visit the restaurants and bars daily or who are visiting the Museum and Cat Visitor Center.

Rivercity Soul Fest

This is one of our favorite events. It is looked forward to and appreciated more than most of the other events we produce. We have invested heavily over the years to create a standard of excellence on the R & B Side of the event and took on an initiative to upgrade the Gospel offering the past few years. Our hope was the community would support top Gospel talent and it would become a feature of the event. That investment hasn't really paid off as yet. This year's Soul Fest budget is based on the revenues we know the event can sustain. If additional funds become available we will consider investing more but want to make sure the event can stand on its own.