



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *Patrick Urich*
DATE: February 22, 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.

CRIME SUMMARY: Attached is the City of Peoria's January 2013 Crime Report which shows crime down (-3%) for 2013.

STATUS OF RESIDENT OFFICER PROGRAM: Council approved 3 new sworn police positions in the 2013 budget, for the creation of a new Resident Officer program. The Police Department has been working to get the program operational and the following is a summary of where it is today.

Site Selection: Following the approval of the 3 new positions, the Chief met with his leadership team to determine potential target locations for program implementation. This was done with the understanding that no location is intended to be permanent, and the goal of the program will be to achieve success in a neighborhood over a period of time (measured in years), and then relocate the position where there is a greater need. The department also considered the possibility that success in the program could potentially result in an expansion in the future, allowing them to identify additional suitable locations.

Target neighborhoods for this type of program are typically densely populated, older, urban neighborhoods with higher than average crime rates. The department started by identifying general areas of the City that would be suitable, with a goal in mind of being diverse in the application and not locating them in any one area of the City. The department also kept in mind that a Resident Officer's beat area must be small enough to be manageable (8 to 10 square blocks), all 3 positions could potentially be located in a single police district but the department chose to be more diverse in their coverage. The three target locations considered for this initial roll out included the south side, the east bluff, and the west bluff. If a fourth position had been available the north valley would likely have been included.

East Bluff: One of the initial thoughts when identifying a specific neighborhood was to consider a location that the City had already identified as critical and had already made a commitment to improvement. The area of the Glen Oak School and the Glen Oak Impact Zone quickly came to mind and early on the department saw this as having great potential. While the process was in the early stages, it was learned that the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service was very interested in assisting the City in locating a Resident Officer in the Glen Oak area and more specifically, indicated the residential portion of the East Bluff Neighborhood house at Wisconsin

and Nebraska was vacant and available for use. This location is ideally situated across the street from Glen Oak School and presented an opportunity to place an officer in a great location without incurring the expenses of having to both purchase and renovate a home. The EBNHS initially indicated they would rent the space to the City; however, that arrangement and the amount of rent have not been finalized. The unit would require some renovation, so there may be other opportunities to acquire the use of the house without having a monthly rental expense. The department has toured the facility several times and it presents an excellent opportunity for the assignment of a Resident Officer.

West Bluff: The residential area that is roughly bounded by University to North Main, to I-74, was identified as a prime location for a Resident Officer deployment. This is an area where the positive impact should improve the quality of life not only for the residential area, but could also be very beneficial to significant partners in the surrounding area as well. The Main St. business corridor, Peoria Next, Bradley University, etc., are all locations wherein the City has made considerable investments which can only stand to benefit from an improvement in the adjoining neighborhoods. Also, during the process of establishing this program, the Chief spoke publicly about this area and his desire to locate a Resident Officer there. A prominent local family was in the process of trying to sell their childhood home near Armstrong and Ellis, and when they heard that the City may establish a Resident Officer in the neighborhood, they contacted the department and offered to donate their house to the City. The department has toured this property several times and it is a very suitable house in an excellent location. The house will require some renovation and updates, but it should fall well within the budget as established by Council.

South Side: The department has not yet identified an exact target area on the south side and no residence has yet been located. There are multiple sites with potential to be considered. Building upon existing City initiatives, two strong possibilities for consideration would be the Harrison Impact Zone and the area adjacent to Trewyn Middle School. Both locations allow the opportunity to leverage other invested resources by the City, District 150, Peoria Park District (ELITE), South Side Mission's Adopt-A-Block, etc.

Officer Recruitment/Assignment: During the month of January, the Chief personally spoke to each CORE training class on the subject of Resident Officer and explained the program and the Department's new General Order, and encouraged officers to consider applying for the position. Officers were allowed to ask questions and there were discussions about the particulars of the program. Immediately following the last day of training the assignment was posted, and upon the expiration of the required two week application period the department had received interest from two officers; however, one of the two withdrew prior to the formal interview. The second officer has completed the interview and is considered to be ideally suited for the work. He has had the opportunity to review the two potential properties (Wisconsin/Nebraska and Armstrong/Ellis) and he has indicated a strong preference for Armstrong/Ellis. This is an area that this officer is very familiar with and has patrolled in the past.

This leaves 2 positions yet unfilled. The Chief will be reposting the position and seeking additional candidates to fill those remaining vacancies and has put out an appeal to officers for feedback to help him identify if there may be minor modifications to the program that would encourage more officers to be interested. In the meantime the department will continue to work to identify the actual south side location and prepare for the next posting.

Program Going Forward: The department will proceed with the assignment of the first Resident Officer which is likely to be the Armstrong/Ellis house. Public Works staff has inspected the house and identified items in need of repair/renovation and is drafting a statement of work for that project. Assuming that the needed amount of work is not insurmountable (the department doesn't expect that it will be based upon the inspection), the department will need to work through the legal arrangements to take possession of the property so that the work can begin. The Chief anticipates having the officer in place by spring.

The assignment of officers to either the east bluff or south side are on hold at the moment, dependent upon additional officers responding to the second vacancy posting. If suitable candidates are identified in the very near future, the department should be able to expedite the process and get the officer(s) in place by late spring or very early summer. This would be particularly true of the east bluff location since that site is already known and currently vacant.

SQUAD CAR DESIGN: The graphic design on the Police Department's current police vehicles is approximately 15 years old and is looking dated. The Police Department has been working toward a more current design and began the process by utilizing a black and white color scheme on the Tactical Command Vehicle and the Armadillos. The new police vehicles in 2013 are planned to follow this new black and white scheme, and the department is excited about the new look. This change will be accomplished most cost effectively by purchasing the cars in black and then applying white vinyl graphics to the doors. The new style graphics will be applied to the vehicle by Public Works staff at Dries Lane, as has been done in the past. For cost comparison purposes, the department anticipates the purchase of 10 new Impalas this year and the total increase in cost for the new design for all 10 cars will be approximately \$1,040. The new graphics for an Impala will cost \$104 more per unit when compared to the old style. This cost estimate includes an increase of \$50 for the actual vinyl graphics, and \$54 for the estimated additional labor at Dries Lane. It is possible that as staff becomes more proficient with the new applications the additional labor costs will be reduced. Attached is a mock up of the new style, on a Chevy Caprice and Chevrolet Tahoe. The Impala will look very similar. Also note that the department is adding "Don't Shoot Peoria.Com" to the rear of the cars.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: Toward the end of October 2012, the Workforce Development Department was in the midst of finalizing the transition to a new organizational structure when several major staffing changes occurred within the department. In addition to these staffing changes, the department also encountered several unexpected issues related to transitioning to this new organizational structure.

The new organizational structure, called the Central Illinois Workforce Consortium, would have essentially become the employer for the staff that is currently employed by the City of Peoria's Workforce Development Department. As the department delved deeper into the specifics of what was involved with establishing the Consortium as an employer it was found to be difficult to resolve issues related to the higher costs of operations, accounting systems and human resources. The department is very appreciative of the time that board members volunteered on the various Consortium committees. The work they did helped determine the employer model was just not the best model to transition to at this time. It is a good model and with time, additional partner input, and a more realistic look at the budget implications, it may be a model the department explores again in the future.

Since the Central Illinois Workforce Consortium was established through a consortium of the four country board chairs, the department needed to schedule a meeting of the Consortium to consider any

changes to this model. On Wednesday, February 13, 2013, a meeting of the members of the Consortium was held at Workforce Network.

The meeting went very well and all four county board chairs and the City of Peoria agreed to dissolve the Central Illinois Workforce Consortium structure (2012 Intergovernmental Agreement) and to revert back, at least on a temporary basis, to the City of Peoria structure (2009 Intergovernmental Agreement).

The next steps will be to meet with the four county board chairs, the City of Peoria, the Workforce Development Board and others to discuss the new organizational structure. By all accounts, all parties and stakeholders are enthusiastic about their participation in making our organization and the workforce system the very best in terms of services to citizens and employers, careful use of taxpayer dollars, and eagerness to collaborate with all workforce/economic development endeavors throughout the region. The department looks forward to the continued support of the City as they develop the framework for the 2013 Intergovernmental Agreement.

NEW CITY WEBSITE RECOGNIZED BY THE ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE: On Thursday February 21, 2013, Information Services Director Sam Rivera was presented a certificate by the Illinois Policy Institute in recognition for achieving an 84.9 percent score on the Local Transparency Project. (Certificate Attached) With a 36.9 point increase, the City of Peoria website is now the 5th highest rated website for transparency among the top 25 largest cities in the state. Special thanks to Rachel Cook for her leadership in this project and to CSE Software for developing a new website for the citizens of Peoria.

