



Memo to the Mayors

June 20, 2007

**Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60601**

Independent Voices. One Vision.

July 9 Mayors Summit on Mortgage Foreclosures and Caucus Business Meeting

Please watch your e-mail or fax machine for an invitation from *Mayor Richard Daley, our Founding Chair*, and *Mayor Gayle Smolinski, our Executive Board Chair*, to two meetings the Mayors Caucus will host on Monday, July 9. The first will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It is a special summit meeting to discuss the Chicago region's emerging mortgage foreclosure problem and innovative prevention strategies that can be implemented to keep municipalities stable.

The second meeting will be our regular quarterly Caucus business meeting. It will begin at 12:00 noon and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Agenda topics will include a recap of the ongoing state legislative session, featuring a discussion with the four co-chairs of the General Assembly's Local Government Caucus, and the unveiling of the "Greenest Regional Compact".

Both meetings will be held at CMAP's offices, 800 Sears Tower, 233 South Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago. If you wish to attend either or both, please RSVP to Dave Bennett, Executive Director. We hope to see you there! **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, dbennett@mayorscaucus.org)**

Mortgage Foreclosure Stats

The invitation to the July 9 meetings has an attached table which lists the number of foreclosures that occurred in the Chicago region in 2006 by municipality. The table clearly demonstrates that nearly all of the region's municipalities are affected by this issue, regardless of income levels.

And it appears as though the problem will only get worse. A report released by the Mortgage Bankers Association last week showed that foreclosure rates increased dramatically in the first quarter of 2007. Foreclosures impact more than just the families who lose their homes. Communities lose the property tax revenue generated by those residences. Vacant homes can lead to blight and result in loss of property values and possible increases in crime in surrounding neighborhoods. If you want to learn more about what your community can do to prevent this from occurring, you do not want to miss the meetings on July 9! **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, dbennett@mayorscaucus.org), Beth Dever (312.201.4507, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

AT&T Legislation Passes General Assembly, What's Next?

As you have probably read in the press today, the Illinois Senate unanimously concurred in the House amendments to SB 678 yesterday. The bill now goes to the Governor for his review. By law, the Senate President and House Speaker have 30 days to forward the legislation to the Governor. He, in turn, has 60 days to sign or veto it. Expectations are that Governor Blagojevich will sign the bill. The timing of when that occurs is unknown as of this writing, however.

While we are waiting for the Governor's action, we wanted to let you know that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Illinois Municipal League and the Councils of Governments are working on five different projects to assist you and your community in implementing SB 678 once it becomes law. First, Roger Huebner of the IML, Terry Miller of Naperville, Tim Frenzer of Wilmette and Dave Bennett have prepared a summary of the bill. You will receive a copy of it once the amendments to SB 678 have been enrolled into the final version that will be sent to the Governor.

Second, we plan to schedule several local workshops on the legislation. We hope to start these later this summer once the bill is signed into law. IML will also do a similar panel at its annual conference in October.

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AT&T Bill (cont.)

The municipal groups plan to work on three different model ordinances that municipalities will need to have in place once SB 678 is law. These include: 1) revising the Model Right-of-Way Construction and Control Ordinance originally developed by the IML and the COGs in 1998 to bring it into compliance with the new law; 2) a model local video service and PEG fee ordinance that you will need to have in place to collect the fees allowed under the legislation; and 3) a model local customer service and privacy protection standards ordinance which will ensure that you have the ability to enforce the standards contained in the bill. An organizational teleconference was held today to begin work on the R-O-W Ordinance. The other two ordinances will follow. We will keep you apprised of our progress. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, dbennett@mayorscaucus.org)**

Two Most Frequently Asked Questions re AT&T Bill

The two questions we get asked the most about SB 678 are: 1) How does it affect our current cable franchise agreement? And 2) What happens to the Competitive Video Franchise Agreement we signed with AT&T?

The answer to the first question is that your current cable franchise remains in place for the time being. An incumbent provider has three options. First, it can continue with the existing agreement and negotiate a new one when it expires. Second, it can opt out of the existing franchise when it expires and apply for a State-issued authorization. Third, it can seek to terminate the agreement immediately and apply for a State-issued authorization. This last option requires an incumbent to provide 180 days notice to the affected local franchising authority and remit any accrued but unpaid fees due under the terminated agreement.

The answer to Question #2 is: it depends on when you entered into the Competitive Video Franchise Agreement. Agreements approved and signed before May 30, 2007 are protected under SB 678. Towns that entered into an agreement with AT&T before that date have the sole discretion to determine whether to continue to operate under that agreement or terminate it and require AT&T to obtain a State-issued authorization. AT&T has indicated that they will choose to terminate agreements approved after May 30 and seek State-issued authorizations. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, dbennett@mayorscaucus.org)**

Latino Suburban Roundtables a Success

The Mayors Caucus recently joined with the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies to host four Roundtables focusing on Latinos in the Chicago region. *Mayor Larry Hartwig, Mayor of the Village of Addison and the Chair of the Caucus' Diversity Issues Task Force*, and Sylvia Puente, the Director of the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative, co-chaired these Roundtables. The Roundtables included representatives from a number of communities, including *Addison, Aurora, Berwyn, Blue Island, Carpentersville, Cicero, Elgin, Joliet and Waukegan*, as well as members of the Latino community and representatives of the organizations that serve them.

The first Roundtable focused on the demographics and basic information regarding Latinos in the Chicago region: where are they living; how are they participating in the economy; how are various communities responding to the growing influx of Latinos? The second Roundtable examined issues surrounding housing: what types of housing do Latinos generally inhabit; how does the affordability of a community impact Latino housing patterns; how can communities and community-based organizations address overcrowding issues?

The third Roundtable focused on education: what are educational best practices regarding teaching English; how can you get parents involved in their children's school life? Finally, the fourth Roundtable looked at what is happening with immigration reform and immigrant integration efforts at the federal, state and local level. Participants learned about initiatives in *Chicago, Addison, and Palatine* designed to incorporate all members of a municipality in order to create a stronger community as a whole. The Caucus and the Institute for Latino Studies will release a summary of the Roundtables and their recommendations in the early fall. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4507, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

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Planning 1-2-3 Wins Golden Trumpet Award!

In September 2006, the Caucus released *Planning 1-2-3: A Step-by-step Workbook for Writing a Comprehensive Plan in Illinois*. The Caucus partnered with the Metropolitan Planning Council and Campaign for Sensible Growth to produce this Workbook, which guides readers through the process of developing or updating comprehensive plans in Illinois. In May 2007, *Planning 1-2-3* received a Golden Trumpet Award, the highest honor of the Publicity Club of Chicago. For more information on the Workbook, see <http://www.growingsensibly.org/cmapubs//planning123.asp>. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4507, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

Retail 1-2-3: A Workbook for Local Officials and Community Leaders

Following in the footsteps of *Planning 1-2-3*, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus partnered with the International Council of Shopping Centers, Campaign for Sensible Growth and Metropolitan Planning Council to produce a workbook focusing on retail development in Illinois. *Retail 1-2-3*, released in February 2007, is the third in a series of workbooks for municipal and elected officials in the state, and builds on the earlier successes of *Planning 1-2-3*, a how-to guide to the elements of comprehensive planning, and *Sensible Tools for Healthy Communities*, a workbook on development review. Its production was guided by a Technical Advisory Committee composed of municipal representatives, staff from the local Councils of Governments and retail and commercial developers. *Mayor Henry Vicensik of the Village of Broadview* co-chaired this Advisory Committee.

Retail 1-2-3 is a toolkit for local elected and appointed officials, citizen leaders, and the development community to help attract and retain valuable businesses while honoring the unique vision and goals of local governments. To download a copy of *Retail 1-2-3*, please visit <http://www.growingsensibly.org/cmapubs/retail123.asp>. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4507, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

Caucus, CMAP to Host Joint Meeting re Truck Congestion

The CREATE Task Force will host a joint meeting with CMAP and the Illinois Trucking Association to discuss how to reduce truck congestion within the framework of current municipal ordinances. The Task Force is co-chaired by *Mayor Donald Peloquin of the Village of Blue Island* and *Mayor Daniel Pritchett of the Village of Franklin Park*. The meeting will be held on August 2. Details regarding location and time will follow. Please call if you are interested in participating. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie (312.201.4508, kagasie@mayorscaucus.org)**

Clean Air Counts Communities Meeting

The next Clean Air Counts Communities meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, July 12, 2007 at the Wood Dale Village Hall, 404 North Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale. The meeting will focus on the community best practices with presentations on lessons learned by Oak Park, Lombard and Aurora on landscaping, low VOC cleaning products, and energy efficiency. The meeting will also include a discussion of progress to date with the municipal policy project. This project is designed to determine the environmental, economic and quality of life benefits or unintended consequences of municipal policies, ordinances and procedures that impact air quality. It will also provide a collection of lessons learned and example implementations. The project will result in technical memos and a report that will help Mayors and Managers evaluate policies that impact air quality. Please call or e-mail by July 6 if you are interested in attending. **Staff contact: Eve Pytel (312.201.4506, epytel@mayorscaucus.org)**

Watch for Clean Air Counts Billboards, Ads This Summer

Starting July 1, thirteen Clean Air Counts billboards portraying several Clean Air Counts business participants will be posted around the region. These businesses were selected from 400 Clean Air Counts business members because of the innovative air quality improvement strategies they are implementing.

Additionally, all 49 designated Clean Air communities will be featured in newspaper ads in July. The ads celebrate their efforts in reducing air pollution by 186,265 pounds. This pollution reduction number is made possible by communities implementing air quality strategies like using energy efficient lighting and office equipment; low voc cleaning products, paints and building materials; providing workplace transportation options to employees and installing native landscaping. **Staff contact: Eve Pytel (312.201.4506, epytel@mayorscaucus.org)**