



# **Memo to the Mayors**

## **September 8, 2006**

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

*Independent Voices. One Vision.*

### **Congratulations to New Executive Board Officers!**

The Mayors Caucus Executive Board elected a new slate of officers at its meeting on August 14, 2006. Elected to serve in FY 2007, the new officers include:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Board Chair:      | Mayor Gayle A. Smolinski, Village of Roselle<br>(representing the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference) |
| Board Vice Chair: | Mayor Jeffery D. Schielke, City of Batavia<br>(representing the Metro West Council of Governments)       |
| Board Secretary:  | Mayor Jeffrey T. Sherwin, City of Northlake<br>(representing the West Central Municipal Conference)      |
| Board Treasurer:  | Rita R. Athas, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office<br>(representing the City of Chicago)               |

The new officers will be presented to the full Mayors Caucus at its next quarterly business meeting this Fall. Congratulations to them all! **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, [dbennett@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:dbennett@mayorscaucus.org))**

### **Speaking of the Next Quarterly Caucus Meeting ....**

We expect to announce the date for the next meeting very soon. It will likely be scheduled for either October or early November. We will get word to you as soon as the date is selected. Each Council of Government (COG) in the Chicago region can bring as many as 15 Mayors to a quarterly meeting. If you would like to attend, please let your respective COG Director know that you are interested. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, [dbennett@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:dbennett@mayorscaucus.org))**

### **Caucus, COGs Working to Assist Member Municipalities with Electricity Supply Decision Through Municipal Energy Collaborative**

The auction to supply Commonwealth Edison with power for its customers was conducted this week. We will soon learn what ComEd's price of power will be for the next seventeen months, starting January 2, 2007.

Com Ed has been cautioning its commercial and residential customers for the last several months that the auction will likely result in higher energy bills. For example, since 2002, power bills in New Jersey have increased 100% operating under a similar auction process as Illinois. While rates in Illinois are not expected to go up 100%, they are expected to be significantly higher than what they have been.

It's not too late to explore third party supply for your town's electricity needs that are not currently part of the free service arrangement provided under your franchise agreement with Com Ed. The Mayors Caucus and the COGs have partnered with the Municipal Energy Collaborative and Energy Choices to help interested municipalities identify a lower cost electricity supply.

The Municipal Energy Collaborative is still the **only** consulting service available to municipalities that can bid out street lighting.

Deciding to use third party supply for your municipality's electricity usage is not an easy decision. Using the Municipal Energy Collaborative offers you the peace of mind that you are contracting with experienced consultants to secure the best possible price.

For further information, please call Kate Agasie at (312) 201-4508 or Don Petkus at (312) 603-0144. To contact Energy Choices directly, please call (773) 491-1564. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie (312.201.3408, [kagasie@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:kagasie@mayorscaucus.org))**

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### **Number of Clean Air Communities Reaches Thirty-Five**

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is pleased to announce that ten more cities and villages in the Chicago area have been designated "Clean Air Communities". This brings the total number of towns that have achieved this status to thirty-five. The newest Clean Air Communities include:

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Village of Arlington Heights | City of Evanston            |
| City of Aurora               | Village of Indian Head Park |
| Village of Bartlett          | City of Oak Forest          |
| Village of Burr Ridge        | Village of Palatine         |
| Village of Deerfield         | Village of Riverside        |

Nine of these ten towns qualified at the bronze level, which is the entry level for the Clean Air Communities Award. The tenth – the City of Aurora- qualified as a silver community.

In addition to these ten newest award winners, two existing Clean Air Communities were upgraded from the bronze to the silver level. These towns include: the Villages of Algonquin and Midlothian. All twelve towns will receive plaques commemorating their achievements at the next quarterly Mayors Caucus meeting this fall.

Towns that are designated "Clean Air Communities" are eligible for many benefits under the Clean Air Counts Campaign. These include grants for diesel retrofits and lawn care buybacks and gas can replacement programs as well as technical and marketing assistance for air quality programs they wish to implement. There are four award levels – bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Which designation a community receives depends on the depth and breadth of the air emission practices and policies that they implement.

Please contact the Mayors Caucus if you would like to learn how your municipality can become a "Clean Air Community". **Staff contact: Eve Pytel (312.201.4506, epytel@mayorscaucus.org)**

### **Local Housing Needs Assessment Underway**

The face of the Chicago region is changing dramatically, and our residents are becoming older and more ethnically diverse. This in turn can create a shift in the types of housing being demanded, as shown in our recent report, *Homes for a Changing Region*. The Caucus and Chicago Metropolitan 2020 are collaborating on a local housing needs assessment project to look at the mismatch between supply and demand in a number of communities, and produce a housing needs assessment for three municipalities (Aurora, Libertyville and Oak Forest). This effort will be guided by a Mayors' Advisory Group to provide oversight and input throughout the process. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4507, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

### **Caucus, Com Ed Partner to Provide Regional Economic Development Database**

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has partnered with ComEd to offer an economic development tool to municipalities in the metropolitan Chicago area. ComEd has access to an extensive database, called CoStar, that provides information on available commercial and industrial buildings in the region. The information from this database will be made available to all municipalities within the Chicago region. The database is a valuable resource because it provides current and unbiased data, allows for very specific or broad searches, and offers a standardized reporting format that delivers consistent information. It can provide your municipality with invaluable assistance with its economic development or redevelopment programs. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4506, beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org)**

### **Caucus Task Force Recommendations re Cable TV/Competitive Video Services**

Many municipalities in the region have been contacted by AT&T regarding Project Lightspeed. The Caucus' Telecommunications Task Force has been meeting over the last several months to develop: 1) a model video services agreement with AT&T; and 2) a model ordinance that spells out how municipalities can regulate these new video service providers while maintaining a level playing field with existing cable television franchisees. Here is a brief status report on both of these projects:

- A negotiating team has met with representatives of AT&T with the intent to come up with the model video services agreement. Those talks have stalled lately over the issue of buildout. The negotiating team hopes to meet soon with AT&T in one more attempt to resolve this road block. We will report back to you on the results of this meeting as soon as we are able. The Mayors Caucus would like to thank those municipal staff that have served on the negotiating team. They include: *Robin Weaver, Village*

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### **Cable TV/Competitive Video (cont.)**

*Manager of Glen Ellyn; Jay Dalicandro, Village Manager of Elmwood Park; Steve Jones, Village Administrator of Oak Forest; Bruce Anderson, Cable Coordinator for Hoffman Estates; Barbara Adams, Attorney with Holland & Knight; Terry Miller, Assistant Senior Attorney for the City of Naperville; and Mark Baloga, Executive Director of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.*

- A drafting committee has been working the last two weeks on the model regulatory ordinance. The intent of the ordinance is to clarify the specific authority municipalities have under current State and federal law to regulate cable television or other video services. Amendments to existing cable regulatory ordinances that towns may already have on their books are also being drafted to account for recent changes in the technologies to deliver video service. Caucus staff expects both the model ordinance and the amendments to be available for distribution later this month. Staff would also like to thank the municipal attorneys that serve on the drafting committee. They include: *Barbara Adams of Holland & Knight; Gerald Dempsey of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins; and Adam Simon of Ansel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Kraftbefer.* **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (312.201.4505, [dbennett@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:dbennett@mayorscaucus.org))**

### **September 12 Conference on Street Design**

The Mayors Caucus and the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) are offering a workshop on using street design to encourage vibrant communities. This workshop will focus on a new design manual from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and CNU entitled "Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities." If your community is discussing or is just plain interested in creating context-sensitive streets that better serve pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists and motorists, you should make plans to attend.

Registration is now open for the event, which will take place **Tuesday, September 12, 2006 from 1:30-5:00pm** at the Chicago Club, 81 E. Van Buren, Chicago, Illinois. All municipal officials and staff are welcome. To register, visit: <http://cnuinfo.stores.yahoo.net/cosedewosepl.html>. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (312.201.4507, [beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org))**