



Memo to the Mayors

October 20, 2006

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
177 North State Street
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Chicago, Illinois 60601

Independent Voices. One Vision.

Mark Your Calendars! Next Caucus Business Meeting Set for December 14

We are pleased to announce that the next quarterly business meeting of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has been set for Thursday, December 14. It will start at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 11:30 a.m. While we have not yet confirmed the location, we can tell you that we are shooting to have it at a spot in downtown Chicago that is convenient to the train stations. We will get information about the location to you as soon as we can.

Please note that we have had a long standing policy that each council of governments or COG can have up to twelve (12) Mayors/Presidents as their representatives at a quarterly meeting. If you are interested in attending the meeting on December 14, please let the Executive Director of your COG know. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4505)**

Are You Interested in Serving on a Caucus Committee or Task Force?

Now that we have started a new fiscal year, it is time once again to invite you to participate in our various committees and task forces. Are you interested in major regional issues like education reform, housing, economic development, the environment, transportation or legislative issues? Then we have a committee or task force for you. Do you want to participate in regional discussions regarding the CREATE Freight Rail Plan, the Clean Air Counts Communities Campaign, stormwater and water supply management, ethnic and cultural diversity, emergency preparedness or electric and natural gas supply issues? Yes, we have a committee or task force for you, too!

Attached to the e-mail that forwarded this *Memo* to you is a summary of the various committees and task forces that we currently have. All you have to do to let us know that you are interested in serving on one (or more) of them is to call or e-mail Caucus Executive Director Dave Bennett.

Two last things you should know about our committees and task forces: 1) they are open to any Mayor, other elected official or city/village managers or department heads in the metropolitan Chicago region; and 2) if you currently are on one of our committees and task forces we will assume you wish to continue to serve unless you tell us otherwise.

Participating on a Caucus committee or task force can be very rewarding for you individually, for your community and for the region as a whole. We hope that you will take advantage of this invitation and get involved!! **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4505)**

How Will Talk of Electric Rate Freeze Affect Your Municipality?

Recently there have been many articles and reports on deliberations in Springfield in response to ComEd's energy auction. Will we see an increase in municipal electricity charges or will Springfield impose another rate freeze? It appears that we will not know for certain until the fall veto session wraps up at the end of November. However, uncertainty about what will come out of Springfield doesn't mean that a municipality shouldn't position itself favorably to offset increases in 2007 energy prices by working now with the Municipal Energy Collaborative. The MEC process is designed around a community's specific needs – not a “one size fits all” approach to buying electricity. And since the MEC works individually with municipalities, there is no fixed date for going out to bid with third party suppliers while we still face legislative uncertainty on 2007 electricity prices. If you are interested, give us a call. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie (kagasie@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4508)**

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RTA to Release Draft Strategic Plan November 9

Caucus staff has learned this week that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plans to release a draft of its strategic plan to improve the metropolitan Chicago region's public transit system on Thursday, November 9. The Mayors Caucus has asked the RTA to present the draft to its Executive Board at its November 13 meeting.

RTA staff indicates that the draft document will outline the agency's vision for how to better maintain the region's existing transit infrastructure and increase its effectiveness. It will include information on possible new projects or service options being considered. What the draft plan will not include, at least initially, is a discussion of revenue options being investigated to fund the transit system moving forward. We are told that the revenue issue will be addressed in a supplemental report that will be released in December. We hope to have RTA representatives at our December 14 Caucus business meeting to present and discuss the revenue side of the equation. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4505)**

Local Housing Needs Assessment Project Premiered This Week

The Mayors Caucus and Chicago Metropolis 2020 are collaborating on a local housing needs assessment (LHNA) 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). Through the LHNA, our consultants, Fregonese Calthorpe Associates, will look at current housing need in a community, and compare that with the existing housing stock. They will then project forward through 2030 and determine the future housing need based on price point and type of unit.

This week, John Fregonese visited Aurora and Libertyville to learn more about those communities and talk with local officials about their plans for the future. He then met with the two Advisory Groups set up to advise the project: the Technical Advisory Group and the Mayors' Advisory Group, to show them the model and methodology he has been implementing and share the project's first results. In the first phase of the LHNA, we will provide housing needs assessments for communities in the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Northwest Municipal Conference and South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. Future phases will include the communities in the remaining six COGs. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4507)**

Clean Air Counts Achieves Three Tons Per Day in Air Emission Reductions

Thanks to the efforts of participating municipalities and businesses, Clean Air Counts ended its third year by reducing air pollutants by three tons per day. That's over 1.2 million pounds of pollutants! Help us reach our ultimate goal of five tons per day by joining the Campaign and becoming a certified Clean Air Community. For more information, visit www.cleanaircounts.org or call the Caucus. **Staff contact: Eve Pytel (epytel@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4506)**

October 25: Diversity Issues Task Force to Discuss the Region's Mexican Population

The Caucus' Diversity Issues Task Force was recently formed to bring Mayors together to learn more about what the region's changing demographics mean for our communities. On Wednesday, October 25, the Task Force will meet to discuss the recently-released report, *A Shared Future: The Economic Engagement of Greater Chicago and Its Mexican Community*. This report was produced by a Task Force sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The Task Force, composed of 45 prominent Mexican and non-Mexican leaders in the Chicago region, including *Blue Island Mayor Don Peloquin*, formed to examine the economic engagement of the Mexican community in the city and the region. This report is a comprehensive overview on the mutual responsibilities of the Mexican community and the Chicago region to ensure a prosperous shared future for all.

Please join the Caucus' Diversity Issues Task Force to review this report and discuss how to address some of its recommendations. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Addison Village Hall. All Mayors are welcome to attend. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org, 312-201-4507)**