



Memo to the Mayors

November 10, 2006

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

Independent Voices. One Vision.

Happy Thanksgiving!

This is the time of year when we should give thanks for all of the things in our lives that are important to us. The Caucus Executive Board and staff would like to offer our thanks to all of those Mayors, other municipal officials and COG staff that have contributed this year to the Mayors Caucus. Whether you are active in our committees or task forces, attended our quarterly business meetings or just called seeking information about an issue or program, we greatly appreciate your time and talents, your opinions and advice as well as your support. We wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

December 14 Mayors Caucus Meeting Location: Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw

We hope you are making plans to join us at our next quarterly Caucus business meeting. It will be held on Thursday, December 14. The law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw has graciously offered to host us at their downtown Chicago offices, 71 South Wacker Drive, 33rd Floor. Mayer, Brown's offices are very convenient to the downtown commuter rail stations for those choosing to use transit. A hot breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. *Executive Board Chair and Roselle Mayor, Gayle A. Smolinski*, will convene the business meeting at 8:30 a.m. It will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

While the Executive Board will meet next week to finalize the meeting's agenda, possible discussion topics and action items currently under consideration include a discussion on efforts to bring the Summer Olympics to the Chicago region in 2016; a discussion of creating a "Green Region" Compact; our annual Clean Air Counts Communities Awards; a recommended action agenda from our Diversity Issues Task Force; a discussion regarding our Education Reform Committee's work to make 2007 the year for education funding and accountability reform; recommendations on our 2007 federal and state legislative priorities; the CREATE Task Force's recommended advocacy strategy; and the launch of our local housing strategies best practices guidebook.

There has to be something in this list of topics that interests you! Please contact your COG Director if you wish to attend and represent your area on December 14! **Staff contact: Dave Bennett** (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4505)

Model Community Antenna TV Franchise Ordinance Now Available

The Mayors Caucus e-mailed to the COGs earlier this week is a model ordinance that protects the authority of municipalities to require all providers of video programming services, including community antenna television systems, to obtain a franchise agreement in order to do business within their boundaries. The ordinance was drafted in response to concerns municipal officials have expressed with regard to the newer, non-cable technologies that have emerged in the video market. Please contact your local COG or one of us for a copy of the ordinance and its accompanying drafters' notes. **Staff contacts: Dave Bennett** (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4505), **Kate Agasie** (kagasie@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4508)

ICC Lowers Street Lighting Rate

The Illinois Commerce Commission recently adopted its staff's recommendations to lower the price municipalities will pay for municipal street lighting starting on January 1, 2007. According to a so-called mitigation strategy that ICC staff presented to the Commission, the new pricing will be \$0.02569 in summer and \$0.03716 in winter. This is significantly lower than the \$0.06736 price approved through the Dutch Auction conducted earlier this fall. Please note that this price does not include transmission and delivery charges. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie** (kagasie@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4508)

Please continue on following page...

Memo to the Mayors

November 10, 2006

Page 2

Save the Date: December 20 Conversation with Homebuilders & Developers

On Wednesday, December 20th, join the Caucus' Housing Committee as we sit down with the region's Homebuilders for **Supporting Workforce Housing Deals "In Our Own Backyard:" A Conversation with Mayors and Developers on the Give and Take in a Changing Environment**. This forum will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Roosevelt University in Schaumburg. We will discuss the changing housing market and how it is affecting all segments of housing, as well as innovations being introduced at the local and regional level to develop/preserve workforce housing. All Mayors are invited to attend this informative and productive meeting. Lunch will be provided. **Staff contact: Beth Dever (beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4507)**

Start Planning a Lawn Care Buyback Event Now

Did you know that one old gas powered lawn mower running for an hour emits as much pollution as driving 650 miles in a 1992 model automobile! Clean Air Counts can help your community rid itself of polluting lawnmowers?

To promote the use of low-emission equipment, communities can organize Lawn Care Buyback events that give residents the opportunity to trade in their older, gas-powered lawn care equipment in exchange for a rebate on the purchase of cleaner (electric, battery-powered, or non-motorized) equipment.

Communities are eligible to participate in the Municipal Grant Program, which offers grants of up to \$12,600 to cover equipment disposal, labor, and all other event costs.

To date, the following CAC Communities have hosted Lawn Care Buyback events for their residents: the *City of Chicago, City of Evanston, City of Oak Park, Village of Midlothian, Village of Northbrook, Village of Oak Park, Village of Palatine, Village of Round Lake Park and the Village of Wilmette*.

Spring seems a long way off, but now is the perfect time to start planning your event. Please contact Caucus staff for more information on becoming a CAC Community and the Municipal Grant Program. **Staff contact: Eve Pytel (epytel@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4506)**.

Committee, Task Force Invitation

We wanted to thank all of the Mayors that responded to the invitation to participate in the Caucus' committees and task forces that was included in the October 20 *Memo to the Mayors*. We had over 20 respondents! We look forward to the new perspectives and ideas that we are sure they will bring to our committees and task forces. If you missed the invitation and are itching to get involved in the Caucus to a greater degree, give us a call! We would be happy to send you another. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4505)**

Upcoming Caucus Meetings

Executive Board - November 13, 2006 at the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, 1220 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook, at 9:00 a.m.

Clean Air Counts Partners - November 14, 2006 at the Caucus offices, 177 N. State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, at 2:00 p.m.

CREATE Task Force - November 20, 2006 at the LaGrange Village Hall, 53 S. LaGrange Road, LaGrange, at 1:00 p.m.

Diversity Issues Task Force - November 27, 2006 at the Addison Village Hall, One Friendship Plaza, Addison, at 10:00 a.m.

Education Reform Committee - November 28, 2006 at the Forest Park Village Hall, 517 Desplaines Avenue, Forest Park, at 9:30 a.m.