



# **Memo to the Mayors**

November 30, 2006

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

*Independent Voices. One Vision.*

## **December 14 Mayors Caucus Meeting: Don't Miss It!!**

We hope you will be able to join us at our next quarterly Caucus business meeting. It will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at the law offices of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, 71 South Wacker Drive, 33rd Floor in downtown Chicago. Here's a sneak peak at the key items that will be on the agenda:

- A discussion on how the region's Mayors can work together to bring the Summer 2016 Olympics to Chicago;
- A discussion on making the Chicago region the "greenest" region in the country;
- A discussion on how the region's Mayors can affect education funding and property tax reform in 2007; and
- Presentation of the Mayors Caucus' recommended 2007 legislative priorities.

There will be other discussion topics as well, but these alone deserve your attention and attendance if at all possible. As Mayer, Brown is in a secured building, we need to give their building security a list of attendees in advance. **If you plan on joining us, please inform your respective council of governments or COG.** 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. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. It will conclude at 11:30 a.m. **Staff contact: Dave Bennett (dbennett@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4505)**

## **Feedback Needed on Energy Collaborative**

As you are aware, the Mayors Caucus, in partnership with Energy Choices and enterpriz Cook County, has been offering consultant services – the Municipal Energy Collaborative – to assist municipalities manage their electricity purchases. Many towns in the region have taken advantage of these services. Several of them have actually selected a new supplier through the Collaborative. Others, because of their smaller electric loads, have been advised by Energy Choices to delay their purchase decisions until more is known about the rate freeze being considered in Springfield (see following news item). The bottom line, however, is that the Municipal Energy Collaborative has done exactly what it was intended to do: provide interested municipalities with the advice they need to make an informed decision about their future electricity purchases.

The Mayors Caucus and the Collaborative are interested in getting your feedback. Whether you have used it or not, please use the following link to complete a survey on the Energy Collaborative. It will only take a few minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us provide the best possible service to our member municipalities. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=335292829571>. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie (kagasie@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4508)**

## **Electric Rate Freeze Update**

A continuation of the electricity rate freeze is becoming less likely. If your community has not yet decided to explore third party power purchase options, you will start to see increased electricity utility bills based on your December 2006 meter reading. Electricity bills received in January 2007 will have higher prices prorated into the statements. February electricity bills will be even higher as the full effect of the price increase is reflected in your ComEd bill. Please call if you would like to explore using a third party power supplier to mitigate some of the price increase. **Staff contact Kate Agasie (kagasie@mayorscaucus.org, 312.201.4508)**

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### **December 20 Conversation with Home Builders and Developers**

Are you worried about the changing housing market and what it means for your municipality? Do you hear from elderly residents who are afraid they might not be able to remain in the community once they sell the home they've lived in for years? Are your local businesses starting to complain that their employees are having trouble finding homes close to work?

Discuss these issues and more at the Caucus' December Housing Forum, *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 an opportunity for Mayors, municipal officials and homebuilders to discuss the questions above, focusing on:

- The changing housing market and how it will affect housing production; and
- Innovative local and regional housing issues and efforts, including: inter-jurisdictional initiatives; fee negotiations; community acceptance of housing policies and developments; school funding debates; and housing preservation.

This will be a great opportunity to meet some of the home builders in the region who are doing workforce and senior housing. If you are interested in promoting this type of housing, you should not miss this event! In addition, the forum will allow attendees to share their ideas regarding what can be done on the local and regional levels to encourage the creation or preservation of workforce housing. Last year, over 100 municipal and development representatives offered their thoughts on how the state could help with this effort; this year, we are following up to explore what is being done "on the ground" in the Chicago area, and what else could be done, to create a balance of housing options across the region. If you cannot attend, please feel free to send an appropriate staff member.

Please see the attached documents for more information on the event, including a more detailed agenda. To RSVP, please call 312-281-3269 or email [ivinson@roosevelt.edu](mailto:ivinson@roosevelt.edu) by Friday, December 8, 2006. **Staff contact: Beth Dever** ([beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org), 312.201.4507)

### **Economic Development Database Available to All Caucus Members**

The Mayors Caucus continues to partner 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 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. **Staff contact: Beth Dever** ([beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:beth.dever@mayorscaucus.org), 312.201.4507)

### **Arboretum Ash Borer Summit**

The Morton Arboretum has asked the Caucus to remind you that it is hosting, *Weathering the Storm: Managing the Impacts of Insects, Disease, and Weather on the Urban Forest*, on Friday, December 8. A primary focus of the summit will be on methods municipalities can use to combat the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The one-day seminar costs \$119. Please call the Arboretum at 630.719.2468 for further details and registration information. **Staff contact: Kate Agasie** ([kagasie@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:kagasie@mayorscaucus.org), 312.201.4508)

### **Upcoming Caucus Meetings**

*Education & Housing Meeting* - December 1, 2006 at the Palatine Village Hall, 200 E. Wood Street, Palatine, at 11:00 a.m.

*CMAP Task Force* - December 8, 2006 at the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, 1220 Oakbrook Road, Oakbrook, at 9:30 a.m.

*Legislative Committee* - December 11, 2006 at the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, 1220 Oakbrook Road, Oak Brook, at 9:30 a.m.

*Quarterly Business Meeting* - December 14, 2006 at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, 71 S. Wacker Drive, 33rd Floor, Chicago. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. The business meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.