



Office of the City Manager

**TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager** *PUK*

**DATE: March 16, 2012**

**SUBJECT: Issues Update**

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

**ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** The Governor's Conference on Affordable Housing allows housing industry professionals representing the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to gather and discuss opportunities and strategies to boost affordable housing opportunities for Illinois' vulnerable populations.

**The Conference features representatives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and several state agencies.** At the close of the Conference, the State honors exemplary leadership in affordable housing through its Governor's "Champions of Affordable Housing" Awards. The City has submitted a nomination for the Champion Award regarding its Down Payment Assistance Program and is awaiting a response.

This year's conference will be held on April 16, 2012 to April 17, 2012 in downtown Chicago. The keynote speaker will be **Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Housing and Urban Development.**

**Conference representatives have invited Nicole Frederick, Grants Coordinator in the Planning and Growth Management Department, to serve as a conference panelist on the topic of "Increasing Home Ownership Opportunities through layered transactions".** Ms. Frederick is the program administrator for the City's Down Payment Assistance Program. She has coordinated the investment of IHDA Trust Fund dollars, awarded to the City in 2009, and the City's Federal HOME funds for the Down Payment Assistance Program.

The panel session explores ways for lenders to increase homeownership by taking advantage of mortgage layering programs. The audience will be lenders who participate in IHDA's Smart Move program. The format will be both a Q & A along with discussions on the City's program. The conference panel invitation is a tribute to the success of the City's Down Payment Assistance Program and the expertise of City staff.

**WELCOME DESK AT CITY HALL.** On Monday March 12, 2102, volunteers from RSVP/CIVIC began training and greeting visitors to City Hall. Their smile and warm welcomes have brought very positive feedback.

- By close of business, Friday March 16, 2012, seven volunteers will have completed at least one shift of training at the Welcome Desk.
- The seven Volunteers now allow for the desk to be staffed approximately 53% of the time City Hall is open.
- Three to four new RSVP/CIVIC volunteers will complete orientation on Monday March 19, 2012.
- It is anticipated that the Welcome Desk will be 80% staffed by March 30, 2012.
- RSVP/CIVIC will continue to contact potential volunteers so coverage will increase through the month of April and realize 100% coverage by the first part of May or before.