



**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report January 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 26
  - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
  - o Bill seeks to address a technical mistake in the 911 consolidation legislation that could have had a negative impact on Aurora.
  - o Mayor Weisner and other local legislative leaders and officials forged a compromise to protect Aurora's 911 system.
  - o The Governor's office is working with Aurora lobbyists and legislators and has approved final language.
  
- Senate Bill 316
  - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
  - o Senate President John Cullerton is pushing a property tax freeze bill that could have a negative impact on suburban municipalities.
  - o President Cullerton has proposed an exception for city funds spent on public safety, such as police and fire.
  - o Governor Rauner has indicated support for a property tax freeze; House Democrats have voted for 14 property tax freezes.
  - o The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
  - o It also limits any increase in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
  - o The bill, if passed, could cost Aurora millions of dollars.
  - o The issue could be considered during the Spring legislative session.
  
- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities – Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) continues to work with legislators to explain the importance of extending the credits.
  - o The tax credits are currently still scheduled to expire and the bill is currently stalled, however, it could be part of an end of session agreement.

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## **INCORPORATED**

### **Government Relations:**

- Illinois Housing Development Authority / St. Charles Hospital Announcement
  - o The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and Mayor Weisner announced the restoration of the former St. Charles Hospital into 60 affordable apartments for seniors in downtown Aurora.
  - o The renovation is expected to restore the historic building under the requirements of the National Register and help stabilize the neighborhood.
  - o IHDA provided a \$2.8 million Credit Advantage Loan and the Low Income Housing Trust will generate an additional estimated \$12 million.
  - o This was the first deal to close using IHDA's Credit Advantage Program.
  - o The project also utilized the River Edge Redevelopment tax credit.
- State Grants
  - o The City of Aurora continues to await the status of several state grants.
  - o No grants are expected to be released until a state budget is passed.
  - o DSI continues to monitor.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report February 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities – Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
  - o Currently, there are close to a dozen state tax credits ready to expire, it is possible there will be an omnibus tax extension bill.
  - o The bill could also be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.
  
- Senate Bill 26
  - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
  - o The Governor's office is working with Aurora lobbyists and legislators and has approved final language.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor.
  
- Senate Bill 316
  - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
  - o The bill could still be considered during the Spring legislative session.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor.
  
- House Bill 2648
  - o Utility Debts Collected through Property Taxes via Special Assessment (Smiddy)
  - o Provides that if a compliance lien has been filed against a property, costs associated with the lien may be treated as an existing, judicially-approved special assessment, as though an assessment warrant had been issued.
  - o Further provides that the municipality may collect the costs as a special assessment if it complies with applicable procedures.
  - o Requires that the owner of record or persons interested in the property shall pay the costs incurred by the municipality for collecting the costs associated with the lien.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor.

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## **INCORPORATED**

### **Government Relations:**

- Appropriation for local governments
  - o The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is seeking to obtain continuous appropriation for several local government funding sources of state government.
  - o IML Executive Director Brad Cole is seeking to have legislation in place this year that will guarantee riverboat gambling, video poker and local Motor Fuel Tax money be released every month.
  - o The bill would also not allow the Governor or Legislature to block distribution of funds.
- State Grants
  - o The City of Aurora continues to await the status of several state grants.
  - o No grants are expected to be released until a state budget is passed.
  - o DSI continues to monitor.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report March 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities – Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
  - o The House Revenue Committee has scheduled a hearing on HB3566 for Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to hear from officials (including from Aurora) on the importance of extending the credits.
  - o Currently, there are close to a dozen state tax credits ready to expire, it is possible there will be an omnibus tax extension bill.
  - o The bill could also be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor.
- Senate Bill 2270
  - o Changes to municipal audit requirements (Stadelman)
  - o Bill seeks to prohibit units of local government from contracting with auditors for more than a five-year term and requires competitively bid auditor contracts.
  - o The legislation provides that a unit of local government may not contract with an auditing firm that has done any audit of the unit of local government in the previous five fiscal years unless an auditing firm practices audit partner rotation.
  - o The bill is intended to deal with the corruption that happened in Dixon, Illinois, where city officials stole millions of dollars.
  - o The bill has not yet passed committee, meaning its passage is unlikely.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- House Bill 5711
  - o Changes the way municipalities bill for utility service (Sosnowski)
  - o Provides that a municipality shall bill for any utility service, including previously unbilled service, supplied to a customer within 24 months after providing the service to the customer.
  - o Provides exceptions for billing within 24 months attributed to tampering, theft of service, fraud, or the customer preventing the utility's recorded efforts to obtain an accurate reading of the meter.
  - o Further provides that a municipality may not intentionally delay billing beyond the normal bill cycle.
  - o The bill advanced out of committee and has a chance to pass.
  
- Senate Bill 3320
  - o Changing the way the state disburses sales taxes (Althoff)
  - o Bill seeks to amend various tax acts to provide that 2 percent of the disbursements to certain units of local government shall be deposited into the Tax Compliance and Administration Fund for the Department of Revenue.
  - o The affected taxes include locally-imposed home rule (and non-home rule) sales taxes.
  - o The legislation as it stands now will cost tens of millions of dollars to municipalities.
  - o The bill has been sent to a subcommittee and could face a difficult road to passage.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor.
  
- House Bill 2648
  - o Utility Debts Collected through Property Taxes via Special Assessment (Smiddy)
  - o Provides that if a compliance lien has been filed against a property, costs associated with the lien may be treated as an existing, judicially-approved special assessment, as though an assessment warrant had been issued.
  - o Further provides that the municipality may collect the costs as a special assessment if it complies with applicable procedures.
  - o Requires that the owner of record or persons interested in the property shall pay the costs incurred by the municipality for collecting the costs associated with the lien.
  - o Bill did not pass committee and is now stalled.

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**INCORPORATED**

- House Bill 6033
  - o Changes municipal annexation laws (Pritchard)
  - o Provides that a public hearing shall occur before any annexation of territory by a municipality and that notice shall be given to property owners within 1/2 mile of the territory proposed to be annexed.
  - o Further provides that when territory is annexed for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes that the corporate authorities of the municipality shall work with any developer, county, township, or road districts to ensure that all roads that will be affected by the annexation will be maintained in the same or better condition as before the annexation.
  - o Bill did not pass out of committee so it is stalled.
  
- House Bill 5595
  - o Sensible Change to Bidding Municipal Services (McDermid)
  - o Seeks to amend the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.
  - o Provides that a political subdivision may waive the public hearing, evaluation procedure, and selection procedure for the selection of architectural, engineering, or land surveying services in an emergency situation for a project that is expected to cost less than \$150,000.
  - o Currently, the limit is \$25,000.
  - o Initiative of the Illinois Municipal League (IML)
  - o Bill did not pass out of committee and is now stalled.

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## **INCORPORATED**

### **Government Relations:**

- Continuous appropriation for local governments
  - o Sensible Change to Bidding Municipal Services (McDermid)
  - o The IML continues to seek continuous appropriation for several local government funding sources of state government.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report April 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone Historic Tax Credit
  - o City of Aurora has worked continuously with other River Edge cities – Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
  - o House Revenue Committee held a hearing on HB3566 on Thursday, April 14 to hear from officials on the importance of extending the program.
  - o Chief Development Officer Bill Wiet testified that several key downtown projects would be in jeopardy if the credit is not extended.
  - o Alderman Mesiacos, Alderman Donnell and Alderman Franco also met with several State Representatives and the Governor's Office to lobby for the extension of the program.
  - o The bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement but is currently stalled.
- Senate Bill 26
  - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
  - o Legislative leaders and officials from Aurora and Naperville forged a compromise to protect Aurora.
  - o The bill is stalled as many counties and municipalities are trying to exempt themselves from the requirements.
- Senate Bill 2270
  - o Changes municipal audit requirements (Stadelman)
  - o Bill proposes to prohibit units of local government from contracting with auditors for more than a five-year term and requires competitively bid auditor contracts.
  - o The legislation also provides that a unit of local government may not contract with an auditing firm that has done any audit of the unit of local government in the previous five fiscal years unless an auditing firm practices audit partner rotation.
  - o The bill passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 321
  - o River Edge cost-sharing bill with ComEd (Holmes)
  - o Bill seeks to extend the sunset clause of a portion of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Act.
  - o The legislation will address a ComEd substation on a plot of land connected to vacant land slated for development; providing additional time for the project to be completed.
  - o Bill passed the Senate and is under consideration now in the House.
- House Bill 5711
  - o Changes the way municipalities bill for utility service (Sosnowski)
  - o Provides that a municipality shall bill for any utility service (including previously unbilled service) supplied to a customer within 24 months of providing the service to the customer.
  - o Provides exceptions for billing within 24 months attributed to tampering, theft of service, fraud, or the customer preventing the utility's recorded efforts to obtain an accurate reading of the meter.
  - o Further provides that a municipality may not intentionally delay billing beyond the normal bill cycle.
  - o Bill passed the House and is now being considered in the Senate. Actual language is here:  
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09900HB5711eng&GA=99&SessionId=88&DocTypeId=HB&LegID=95165&DocNum=5711&GAID=13&Session=>

### **Government Relations:**

- Continuous Appropriation for Local Governments
  - o The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is working to establish a process for continuous appropriation of several local government funding sources from the state.
  - o Legislation seeks to guarantee the monthly release of riverboat gambling, video poker and local Motor Fuel Tax money.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report May 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 321
  - o River Edge Cost-sharing with ComEd (Holmes)
  - o Bill seeks to extend the sunset clause of a portion of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Act.
  - o The legislation is important for future Aurora development, as it would assist in the relocation of an existing substation and open up future development opportunities in the downtown.
  - o The bill passed both houses and now goes to the Governor's desk.
- Senate Bill 2469
  - o Bond time limit extension (Chapa LaVia)
  - o Legislation seeks to allow schools that received federal bonding dollars 25 years for the bonds to mature instead of the current statutory limit of 20.
  - o Under the bill, schools could pay lower annual fees for federal bond funds that may be used for rehabilitation and construction of educational facilities.
  - o The bill passed both houses and is on its way to the Governor's desk.
- Senate Bill 550
  - o Lead testing in schools (Steans)
  - o The bill seeks to mandate a significant lead testing program in Illinois schools, including in the Aurora area.
  - o The legislation is an initiative of the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois Environmental Council.
  - o The bill passed the Senate and is pending in the House.
- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone Historic Tax Credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities in an effort to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas to assist with economic development.
  - o About a dozen other state tax credits are ready to expire so it is possible there will be an omnibus tax extension bill.
  - o The bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement in the fall veto session but is currently stalled.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Under current law, both the employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court, upon review, ultimately determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o HB 1380 makes a substantial change to this law.
  - o Here is how it would work:
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees;
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date.
  - o This is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o The bill is opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League.
  - o The bill passed both houses.
- Senate Bill 26
  - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
  - o This legislation would fix a technical mistake in the 911 consolidation.
  - o Local legislative leaders and officials from Aurora and Naperville (including Mayor Weisner) forged a compromise to protect Aurora.
  - o The bill is stalled as many counties and municipalities are trying to exempt themselves from the requirements.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2270
  - o Changes municipal audit requirements (Stadelman)
  - o The bill prohibits units of local government from contracting with auditors for more than a five-year term and requires competitively bid auditor contracts.
  - o The legislation also provides that a unit of local government may not contract with an auditing firm that has done any audit of the unit of local government in the previous five fiscal years unless an auditing firm practices audit partner rotation.
  - o The bill passed the Senate but has stalled in the House so appears dead for this year.
  
- House Bill 5711
  - o Changes the way municipalities bill for utility service (Sosnowski)
  - o Provides that a municipality shall bill for any utility service, including previously unbilled service, supplied to a customer within 24 months after providing the service to the customer.
  - o Also provides exceptions for billing within 24 months attributed to tampering, theft of service, fraud, or the customer preventing the utility's recorded efforts to obtain an accurate reading of the meter.
  - o Further provides that a municipality may not intentionally delay billing beyond the normal bill cycle.
  - o Bill passed the House but stalled in the State Senate.

### **Government Relations:**

- State Grants
  - o The City of Aurora, and other entities in Aurora, continue to await the release of several state grants.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. continues to monitor.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report June 2016**

**Legislation being tracked:**

- Senate Bill 321
  - o River Edge Cost-sharing with ComEd (Holmes)
  - o Bill seeks to extend the sunset clause of a portion of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Act.
  - o The legislation is important for future Aurora development, as it would assist in the relocation of an existing substation and open up future development opportunities in the downtown.
  - o The bill passed both houses and now goes to the Governor's desk where action is expected by August 26.
  
- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Under current law, both the employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court, upon review, ultimately determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o HB 1380 makes a substantial change to this law.
  - o Here is how it would work:
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees;
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date.
  - o This is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o The bill is opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League.
  - o The bill passed both houses and action by the Governor is expected by August 26<sup>th</sup>, a veto of this bill veto is possible.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2469
  - o Bond time limit extension (Chapa LaVia)
  - o Legislation seeks to allow schools that received federal bonding dollars 25 years for the bonds to mature instead of the current statutory limit of 20.
  - o Under the bill, schools could pay lower annual fees for federal bond funds that may be used for rehabilitation and construction of educational facilities.
  - o The bill passed both houses and is on its way to the Governor's desk where action is expected by August 28.

### **Government Relations:**

- Senate Bill 2047
  - o Temporary Budget
  - o Legislators approved a temporary budget plan for fiscal year 2017 (which begins July 1).
  - o Perhaps of most interest to municipalities is that local pass-through funds (e.g. Motor Fuel Tax, video and casino gaming, Use Tax and 9-1-1 programs) received funding for the full 2017 state fiscal year.
  - o Transportation project funding is also available for the entire state fiscal year.
  - o The bill also provides full 2017 fiscal year spending authority for K-12 education, along with funding for higher education institutions and MAP grants for FY2016 and into FY2017.
  - o Human services and operational expenses of state agencies are funded for the first six months of the 2017 state fiscal year.
- State Grants
  - o The City of Aurora, and other entities in Aurora, continue to await the release of several state grants.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. continues to monitor.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report July 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 321
  - o River Edge cost-sharing bill with ComEd (Holmes)
  - o Bill seeks to extend the sunset clause of a portion of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Act.
  - o The legislation is important for future Aurora development, as it would assist in the relocation of an existing substation and open up future development opportunities in the downtown.
  - o Bill was signed by the Governor on August 5, 2016.
  
- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Under current law, both the employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court, upon review, ultimately determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o HB 1380 makes a substantial change to this law.
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees;
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date.
  - o This is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o The bill is opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League.
  - o The bill passed both houses and the Governor is expected to act by August 26; a veto is possible.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2469
  - o Bond time limit extension for East Aurora (Chapa La Via)
  - o Legislation seeks to allow schools that received federal bonding dollars 25 years for the bonds to mature instead of the current statutory limit of 20.
  - o Under the bill, schools could pay lower annual fees for federal bond funds that may be used for rehabilitation and construction of educational facilities.
  - o Bill was signed by the Governor on August 5.

### **Government Relations:**

- 9-1-1 System in Aurora and Kane County
  - o Kane County applied for and received a waiver from the Illinois State Police to allow the county and the City of Aurora until June 1, 2018 to complete its 9-1-1 consolidation.
  - o A new law is urging 911 systems statewide to consolidate, Aurora and Kane County needed additional time to coordinate with other area 9-1-1 systems.
- State Grants
  - o The City of Aurora, and other entities in Aurora, continue to await the release of several state grants.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. continues to monitor.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report August 2016**

**Legislation:**

- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Under current law, both the employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court, upon review, ultimately determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o HB 1380 makes a substantial change to this law.
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees;
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date.
  - o This is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o The bill is opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League.
  - o Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto of the bill on August 19.
  - o The Governor's partial veto will be considered when the Legislature reconvenes for the fall veto session in November.
- House Bill 4379
  - o Travel expense control bill (McSweeney)
  - o Bill proposes to require local governments to regulate and require formal approval for local government travel expenses.
  - o New travel expense regulations must be approved by local governments by June 29, 2017 or these entities cannot reimburse employees for expenses.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2964
  - o Prevailing wage calculations (Harmon)
  - o This bill proposes to remove local control over the establishment of prevailing wage rates and to base the prevailing wage on collective bargaining agreements.
  - o This legislation could inflate prevailing wage rates, which in turn could cause the cost of public works projects to increase
  - o Local governments and the Illinois Municipal League (IML) are opposed to the bill.
  - o Governor Bruce Rauner issued an amendatory veto of Senate Bill 2964.
  - o The veto will possibly be considered during the General Assembly's fall veto session in November.

### **Government Relations Activities:**

- State grant for Mastodon Island at Phillips Park
  - o The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has executed a final project agreement for the \$400,000 state grant to the City of Aurora.

Please contact Molly Lynch at 312-762-7492 (O) or 312-450-5302 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report September 2016**

**Legislation:**

- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Currently, both the public employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o The bill makes a substantial change to this law by creating a "loser pays" system:
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the bill says each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date, this is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto of the bill on August 19, 2016.
  - o The bill was opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League (IML).
  - o The Governor's partial veto could be considered when the Legislature reconvenes for the fall veto session in November.



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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2964
  - o Prevailing wage calculations (Harmon)
  - o On July 22, 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner issued an amendatory veto of SB 2964.
  - o SB 2964 is an initiative of Operating Engineers Local 150 to remove local control over the establishment of prevailing wage rates and to base the prevailing wage on collective bargaining agreements when as few as 30% of workers in an area are represented by a union, inflating rates.
  - o A consequence of this bill would be more expensive public works projects.
  - o Local governments and the Illinois Municipal League are opposed to the bill.
  - o Governor Rauner's amendatory veto reinstates the role that local public bodies are permitted to play in calculating the prevailing wage.
  - o The amendatory veto also removes provisions of the bill that would predicate prevailing wage rates on collective bargaining agreements.
  - o The veto will possibly be considered during the General Assembly's fall veto session in November.

### **Government Relations:**

- State Grant for Mastadon Island at Phillips Park
  - o The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has executed a final project agreement for the \$400,000 state grant to the City of Aurora.
  - o Dan Shomon Inc. assisted with the approval of the grant.

Please contact Kristin Rubbelke at 312-762-7492 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report October 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ) Historic Tax Credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities – Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for historic riverfront downtowns.
  - o The RERZ tax credit is one of several ready to expire, is possible there will be an omnibus tax extension bill.
  - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016, but the issue could be considered during the General Assembly's fall veto session or possibly during the lame duck session in January 2017.
  
- Senate Bill 2964
  - o Prevailing wage calculations (Harmon)
  - o On July 22, 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner issued an amendatory veto of SB 2964.
  - o SB 2964 is an initiative of Operating Engineers Local 150 to remove local control over the establishment of prevailing wage rates and to base the prevailing wage on collective bargaining agreements when as few as 30% of workers in an area are represented by a union, inflating rates.
  - o A consequence of this bill would be more expensive public works projects.
  - o Local governments and the Illinois Municipal League are opposed to the bill.
  - o Governor Rauner's amendatory veto reinstates the role that local public bodies are permitted to play in calculating the prevailing wage.
  - o The amendatory veto also removes provisions of the bill that would predicate prevailing wage rates on collective bargaining agreements.
  - o The veto will possible be considered during the General Assembly's fall veto session in November.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Currently, both the public employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o The bill makes a substantial change to this law by creating a "loser pays" system:
    - If a union receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the bill says each party is responsible for their OWN court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - If the public employer receives a stay of an arbitration decision and ultimately loses following a review, the public employer is responsible for ALL court costs and attorneys' fees.
    - These costs may accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the effective retroactive date, this is money that would be owed by taxpayers.
  - o Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto of the bill on August 19, 2016.
  - o The bill was opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League (IML).
  - o The Governor's partial veto could be considered when the Legislature reconvenes for the fall veto session in November.

### **Government Relations:**

- Asset Forfeiture
  - o The American Civil Liberties Union may be proposing legislation that seeks to restrict police department's use of asset forfeiture programs.
  - o Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) spoke with Chief Ziman who developed bullet points and examples on the program's success in Aurora.
  - o This legislation stems from criticism of Chicago's asset forfeiture program for a lack of transparency.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor the issue.

Please contact Kristin Rubbelke at 312-762-7492 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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**INCORPORATED**

**City of Aurora Activity Report November 2016**

**Legislation:**

- Senate Bill 1488
  - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone Historic Tax Credit (Stadelman/Chapa LaVia)
  - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities, Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis, to extend the historic tax credit for downtowns with riverfront property.
  - o The tax credits are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016, however, this legislation extends the expiration for one year until December 31, 2017.
  - o There are approximately a dozen major state tax credits scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016, SB1488 is the only one to successfully pass an extension.
  - o Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) organized and launched a social media effort that helped lead to the bill's passage.
  - o DSI also solicited help and support from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and AIA Illinois, the major group representing Architects.
  - o The bill passed both houses overwhelmingly and is now sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature.
- Senate Bill 550
  - o Lead testing (Steans/Harper)
  - o Proposed bill requires increased testing for lead in drinking water, especially schools, and stepped-up efforts to identify and replace lead service lines in municipal water systems.
  - o Informed by the tragedy in Flint, Michigan, the measure also brings Illinois law into line with federal lead limits and includes new rules to keep the public informed about potential risks in their drinking water.
  - o The legislation as it is written now will impose significant burdens and costs on municipalities.
  - o The Illinois Municipal League (IML) intends to meet with bill proponents over the next few weeks to achieve an acceptable and equitable solution for mandatory lead testing in schools.
  - o The IML will also be addressing other issues specifically pertaining to notification requirements and the timing of a water management plan.
  - o The bill passed the Senate.

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## **INCORPORATED**

- Senate Bill 2964
  - o Prevailing wage calculations (Harmon)
  - o On July 22, 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner issued an amendatory veto of SB 2964.
  - o SB 2964 is an initiative of Operating Engineers Local 150 to remove local control over the establishment of prevailing wage rates and to base the prevailing wage on collective bargaining agreements when as few as 30% of workers in an area are represented by a union. The objective of the legislation is to inflate prevailing wage rates. A consequence of such wage inflation would be more expensive public works projects.
  - o Local governments and the Illinois Municipal League are opposed to the bill.
  - o Governor Rauner's amendatory veto reinstates the role that local public bodies are permitted to play in calculating the prevailing wage. The amendatory veto also removes provisions of the bill that would predicate prevailing wage rates on collective bargaining agreements.
  - o Legislators failed by one vote to override the Governor's veto so the bill is dead for now.
  
- House Bill 1380
  - o Attorney fees in arbitration disputes (Phelps)
  - o Currently, both the public employer and the union have equal recourse to seek a stay of an arbitration decision for purposes of a court review.
  - o Each party is responsible for their own court costs and attorneys' fees unless the court determines the appeal to be frivolous.
  - o At that point, the party deemed to have made the frivolous appeal is responsible for all court costs and attorneys' fees.
  - o The bill makes a substantial change to this law by creating a "loser pays" system.
  - o Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto of the bill on August 19, 2016.
  - o The bill was opposed by the City of Aurora and the Illinois Municipal League (IML).
  - o No action was taken during fall veto session so the bill is dead.

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## **INCORPORATED**

### **Government Relations:**

- Capital Funding Requests
  - o DSI is working with the city to prepare a list of capital funding requests in the event a state budget is approved.
- Asset Forfeiture
  - o The American Civil Liberties Union may still propose legislation that seeks to restrict police department's use of asset forfeiture programs.
  - o DSI will continue to monitor the issue.

Please contact Kristin Rubbelke at 312-762-7492 (C) or Dan Shomon, 312-762-7490 (O) or 773-339-0476 (C) with questions.

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