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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, January 2021

Illinois General Assembly update

- The 101st Illinois General Assembly met in Springfield – called the “lame duck” session – from January 8-13.
- The 101st General Assembly ended at noon on January 13.
- Then in the afternoon of January 13, the 102nd General Assembly was sworn in.
- The new House of Representatives immediately elected its first African American speaker, Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch.

- What legislation passed during the “lame duck” session:
 - **Criminal justice/police reform** – This was the most controversial pillar of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus reform package and includes abolishing cash bail, modernizing sentencing laws, instituting a certification and decertification system for police officers statewide, requiring body cameras for all municipalities, reforming crowd control response, and amplifying law enforcement training standards. The final bill removed some of the even more controversial planks in the original language, but it was the signature item of the Black Caucus. The governor is expected to sign the bill.
 - **Education reform** – This legislation places more state emphasis on preparing minority students for educational opportunities. The goal is to provide support in order to better meet K-12 graduation requirements and be prepared for college. It establishes new graduation standards and amends financial aid funds for students to alleviate the burden on some universities providing state financial assistance. The governor is expected to sign the bill.
 - **Economic empowerment** – This contracting reform is designed to help minority businesses. It raises the aspirational goal for the state to a 30 percent Business Enterprise Program (BEP) contracting percentage with 18 percent of that going to minorities. Currently, there is only a 20 percent state BEP goal with 11 percent going to minorities. The bill creates new commissions and requires the state do racial diversity assessments when the state makes purchases. The governor is expected to sign the bill.
 - **Protections for essential workers** – This legislation guarantees expanded worker compensation benefits for essential workers that contract COVID-19. The governor is expected to sign the bill.

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- **Home liquor sales and delivery** – The legislation allows alcohol to be purchased from and delivered to a person's home, including by third party delivery services. It ensures the purchaser is verified to be 21 years old as well. It passed with strong bipartisan support and overrides home rule authority. The governor is expected to sign the bill.
- What legislation didn't pass during "lame duck" session:
 - **Lead service lines** – Our lobbyist team fought back hard against legislation that would have cost Aurora hundreds of millions of dollars and required the City to replace all lead service lines with an uncertain stream of funding. The lobbyist team contacted all our local legislators and municipal clients to oppose.
 - **Ethics reform** – A last-minute attempt to put onerous regulations on anyone that lobbies or consults with any of Illinois' 9,000 units of local government failed when it did not get consideration before the session ran out. It creates new requirements for all of Aurora's board and commission members. The legislation also placed unreasonable requirements on government officials when it comes to transparency. However, this ethics bill is coming back for another vote and Aurora will need to continue to monitor it closely.
 - **Cannabis** – An attempt to fix the state's cannabis program scoring program failed to get consideration in the House of Representatives before the end of the session. Now, the State of Illinois will probably have to wait for the courts to sort out the situation, which is surely going to delay the openings of new dispensaries and craft grow facilities.
 - **Decoupling bill** – The Governor attempted to "decouple" Illinois from a massive CARES Act tax break for small businesses that would have saved the state \$500 million in the fiscal year 2021 budget and \$1 billion overall. However, the effort failed but is likely to come back for consideration.

Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

- The lobbyist team, the Illinois Municipal League and the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus and other groups will be pushing hard to protect the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) money that goes to Aurora and other communities.
- Aurora receives more than \$20 million annually from LGDF.
- The Governor is likely to propose cutting LGDF on February 17 when he proposes his fiscal year 2022 budget to fix the state's budgetary crisis.
- The lobbyist team is monitoring closely.

Legislation to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- House Bill 5
- Prohibits unfunded mandates
 - Provides that any State mandate regarding any subject matter enacted on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act that necessitates additional expenditures from local government revenues shall be void and unenforceable unless the General Assembly makes necessary appropriations to implement that mandate.
 - Provides that the failure of the General Assembly to make necessary appropriations shall relieve the local government of the obligation to implement any State mandate.
 - Illinois Municipal League initiative
- House Bill 6
 - Reduces state fees for collecting sales taxes
 - Would reduce the state's administrative fee on the collection of locally imposed sales taxes from 1.5% to 1%.
 - Ensures that more revenues resulting from locally imposed sales taxes are retained to benefit local residents, not to fund the state at the expense of local programs and services.
 - Illinois Municipal League initiative
- House Bill 34
 - Enterprise zone eligibility (Walker)
 - Illinois Municipal League initiative
 - Improve the enterprise zone process for municipalities.
- House Bill 42
 - Automatic appropriation of local funds (Meyers-Martin)
 - Illinois Municipal League initiative
 - Protects Local Government Distributive Fund by ensuring moneys that are required to be distributed to units of local government and other entities from the State and Local Sales Tax Reform Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, the State Gaming Fund, the Local Government Video Gaming Distributive Fund, and the Statewide 9-1-1
 - Fund are subject to a continuing appropriation.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 267
 - Home inspection bill (Yingling)
 - Creates the Local Government Residential Inspection Limitation Act.
 - Provides that, except for a fire, medical, or police emergency or as otherwise permitted by specified provisions of the Fire Investigation Act, a unit of local government may not conduct a physical inspection of residential property without the voluntary consent of the owner or occupant of the property, a lawful warrant, or court order.
 - Limits home rule powers
 - Aurora opposed this bill last session and it didn't advance and it's unclear if the legislation has more momentum this year.
- House Bill 179
 - Limits TIFs by redefining blighted areas (Mayfield)
 - Revises the definition of "blighted area": (1) to require that a reasonable person would conclude that each factor of a blighted area is present to a meaningful extent so that a municipality may reasonably find that the factor is clearly present, is reasonably distributed throughout the improved or vacant part of the redevelopment project area, and that public intervention is necessary to address the factor; and (2) to provide that a "blighted area" does not include any area within another redevelopment project area. Provides that a municipality must reevaluate whether a redevelopment project area designated as a blighted area is still a blighted area every 10th calendar year after the year in which the ordinance approving the redevelopment project area was adopted, redesignating the redevelopment project area as a blighted area if it meets the requirements or discontinuing the redevelopment project area if it does not meet the requirements.
 - Limits where municipalities may jointly undertake plans or utilize revenues in contiguous redevelopment projects areas.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- Senate Bill 41
 - Small Cell legislation (Glowiak Hilton)
 - Bill is called "Protect Me From 5G! Act"
 - Bill will increase local authority over 5G locations and give municipalities the ability to enforce environmental and noise standards
 - Initiative of the Village of Western Springs
 - Original Small Cell law sunsets in 2021 so the issue is going to be front and center in Springfield.

Coronavirus/federal stimulus funds

- Kane County Board
 - Attended periodic, Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee meetings and other county board meetings at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva.
 - Communicated frequently with county board members to push for fast and fair funding for City of Aurora and Aurora's non-profits and businesses.
- Hesed House
 - Assisted Aurora and Hesed House officials with trying to get additional CARES Act funding for Hesed House emergency needs.
 - Almost \$800,000 was approved and now the lobby team is working with Hesed House to get final disbursement.
- Aurora Civic Center Authority
 - Paramount Theatre and River Edge Park both submitted applications for grants from Kane County under the CARES Act and both were paid out.
 - The last federal stimulus package included the Save Our Stages bill, which could provide millions of dollars to venues such a Paramount Theatre; the lobbyist team is assisting in getting information about the timeline for the release of funding.
- Rental assistance
 - Kane County has received \$15 million in rental assistance from the last stimulus bill and the county is still trying to figure how to manage the program.
 - Aurora will need to monitor Kane and DuPage counties to help multifamily owners and renters get this benefit.

River Edge Tax Credit

- Aurora is working with Rockford, Peoria and Elgin on the extension of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone legislation with the State of Illinois.
- The tax credit is critical to downtown redevelopment projects in Aurora and it expires in 2021.
- Aurora prepared a report on the benefits of the tax credit in creating jobs and economic development in the city.
- Extension legislation will be introduced in February for consideration in the Spring legislative session.

Please contact Dan Shomon (773) 339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964 with questions.



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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, February 2021

Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

- On February 17 in his state budget plan, the Governor proposed a 12 percent cut in LGDF for the 2022 state fiscal year, which would result in a loss of approximately \$2 million for the City of Aurora (COA).
- Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) the Illinois Municipal League, the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus and other governmental groups will be pushing hard to protect the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) money that goes to Aurora and other communities.
- Aurora receives more than \$20 million annually from LGDF and \$2 million cut would result in possible reductions in city services and or force other financial challenges.

Coronavirus/federal stimulus funds

- Kane County Board
 - DSI attended periodic, Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee meetings and either virtually or at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva on behalf of Aurora.
 - Communicated frequently with county board members to push for fast and fair funding for City of Aurora and Aurora's non-profits and businesses.
 - Kept COA apprised of the progress and when additional action was required.
- Rental assistance program
 - Kane County will officially begin its \$15 million rental assistance program with CARES Act funding when the portal opens on May 1, 2021.
 - The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA) is partnering with the county to run the program and IHDA is also doing the same.
 - Grants of up to \$20,000 will be provided for rental assistance; the Kane County contact is Scott Berger.
- Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA)
 - The last federal stimulus package included the Save Our Stages bill, which could provide millions of dollars to venues such a Paramount Theatre.
 - DSI is assisting in getting information about the timeline for the release of funding.
 - Coordinated meetings and communication with our Federal Legislators to advocate on behalf of entities like ACCA.

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- Vaccination site
 - DSI is lobbying the State of Illinois and federal officials for a large vaccination site in the City of Aurora.
 - Both the state and the federal government are in discussions about a possible site in Aurora, but nothing is guaranteed.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- Senate Bill 157/House Bill 3227 (Holmes/Gordon)
 - River Edge tax extension
 - Extends the River Edge historic tax credit for five years until 2027
 - Current credit expires on January 1, 2022.
 - Critical bill for Aurora because of upcoming projects, including Copley Hospital redevelopment.
 - More than 10 cosponsors including all Aurora-area legislators for the bill.
- Senate Bill 1671 (Holmes)
 - Lime sludge authorized disposal
 - COA's proposed lime sludge plan will save as much as \$10 million for the city's waste disposal costs.
 - The environmentally safe plan still needs approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
 - Besides the legislation, city is trying other efforts to gain a permit to begin safe lime sludge disposal in quarries.
- House Bill 798 (Willis)
 - Fire sprinkler inspectors
 - DSI is working with the State Fire Marshal and City of Aurora to enact better regulations to protect residents when it comes to fire sprinklers.
 - The goal of this effort is to make sure that all fire sprinkler firms use licensed installers and technicians when doing contracting work on fire safety.
 - Legislation is expected to be considered in the Spring session of the General Assembly.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 267 (Yingling)
 - Home inspection bill
 - Creates the Local Government Residential Inspection Limitation Act.
 - Provides that, except for a fire, medical, or police emergency or as otherwise permitted by specified provisions of the Fire Investigation Act, a unit of local government may not conduct a physical inspection of residential property without the voluntary consent of the owner or occupant of the property, a lawful warrant, or court order.
 - Limits home rule powers.
 - Aurora opposed this bill last session and it didn't advance and it's unclear if the legislation has more momentum this year.
- House Bill 397 (Moylan)
 - Restricts municipal trucking enforcement
 - The legislation would remove the authority of local municipalities to issue overweight oversized truck permits.
 - All permits would be issued by IDOT and local governments would have no say in the size of the trucks traveling over local roads.
 - The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is opposed.
 - Appears to be an initiative of the trucking industry or possibly the Teamsters Union.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- Senate Bill 41 (Glowiak Hilton)
 - Small Cell legislation
 - Bill is called "Protect Me From 5G! Act"
 - Bill will increase local authority over 5G locations and give municipalities the ability to enforce environmental and noise standards.
 - Initiative of the Village of Western Springs
 - Original Small Cell law expires in 2021 so the issue is going to be front and center in Springfield.
- Senate Bill 556/House Bill 3739 (Bush/Robinson)
 - Lead service line replacement
 - Bill mandates replacement of the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses.
 - Aurora has been an active participant in previous negotiations and supports the concept of replacement to protect community members, but wants to ensure there is a reasonable funding mechanism and timeframe included.
 - This project is estimated to cost Aurora more than \$200 million.
 - The legislation currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation.
 - A stakeholders' meeting will be held March 10 and Aurora plans to participate.

- Senate Bill 568 (Villivalam)
 - Fix the FOID Card Act
 - Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC is working with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, on legislation in response to the Henry Pratt shooting.
 - On the second anniversary of the incident, the two lawmakers held a press conference to call for changes to the state FOID law.
 - The sponsors are still working on the language and stakeholder meetings are scheduled to begin soon.
 - Aurora Police Department hopes to continue to partner in the process.

Please contact Dan Shomon (773) 339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964 with questions.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, March 2021

Fox Valley Mall rehabilitation permitting

- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) team played the key role in obtaining necessary permits from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Fox Valley Mall project.
- Centennial needs to make adjustments along Route 59 to clear the way for the planned redevelopment of the center, DSI was instrumental in securing a prompt review by IDOT.

Federal earmarks

- Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives are bringing back earmarks.
- While they have not reached a final deal with Republicans, congressional offices are seeking earmark requests from municipalities such as Aurora.
- DSI have reached out to Congressmen Foster and Underwood and are working with them on possible transportation and infrastructure requests.

Coronavirus/federal relief funding

- Vaccination site
 - DSI lobbied the State of Illinois and federal officials for a large vaccination site in the City of Aurora.
 - Both the state and the federal government are in discussions about a possible site in Aurora but nothing was guaranteed.
- American Recovery Plan
 - Aurora is estimated to receive \$38 million from the federal stimulus package from the Biden Administration.
 - Final guidance has not yet come out in terms of how and when Aurora will receive funding.
 - DSI continues to monitor and provided updates.

Lime sludge

- DSI continues to work with the lobbyists for LaFarge to advance a permit request pending before the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).
- City of Aurora would like to dispose of lime sludge in an environmentally safe fashion but must gain IEPA approval.
- The lime sludge disposal plan will save Aurora taxpayers approximately \$700,000 per year.

Redistricting hearing

- The City of Aurora City Council Chambers will be the site of an Illinois House redistricting committee hearing on Friday, April 9th.
- Stakeholders will testify about the legislative redistricting based on the U.S. Census.
- Reps. Stephanie Kifowit and Barbara Hernandez are hosting the hearing and the City of Aurora will testify.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- Senate Bill 157/House Bill 3227
 - River Edge tax extension (Holmes/Gordon)
 - Extends the River Edge historic tax credit for five years until 2027
 - The current credit expires on January 1, 2022.
 - This bill is critical for Aurora due to current and upcoming projects.
 - More than 10 cosponsors, including all Aurora-area legislators, for the bill.
 - Bill passed out of the Senate Revenue Committee unanimously and is now under consideration in the full Senate.
- House Bill 798
 - Fire sprinkler inspectors (Willis)
 - DSI is working with the State Fire Marshal and City of Aurora to enact better regulations to protect residents and businesses when it comes to fire sprinklers.
 - Goal of this effort is to make sure that all fire sprinkler firms use licensed installers and technicians when doing contracting work on fire safety.
 - Legislation is expected to be considered in the Spring session of the General Assembly.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 1727
 - Ends qualified immunity for police officers (Tarver)
 - The "Bad Apples in Law Enforcement Accountability Act" (HB 1727) would eliminate qualified immunity statewide.
 - The bill passed out of a House committee last week. It is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- House Bill 267
 - Home inspection bill (Yingling)
 - Creates the Local Government Residential Inspection Limitation Act.
 - Provides that, except for a fire, medical, or police emergency or as otherwise permitted by specified provisions of the Fire Investigation Act, a unit of local government may not conduct a physical inspection of residential property without the voluntary consent of the owner or occupant of the property, a lawful warrant, or court order.

- Limits home rule powers
- Aurora opposed this bill last session and it did not advance, and it is unclear if the legislation has more momentum this year.
- Bill did not pass out of committee before the deadline but can still be considered if it comes back as an amendment.
- House Bill 397
 - Restricts municipal trucking enforcement (Moylan)
 - The legislation would remove the authority of local municipalities to issue overweight oversized truck permits.
 - All permits would be issued by IDOT and local governments would have no say in the size of the trucks traveling over local roads.
 - Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is opposed.
 - Appears to be an initiative of the trucking industry or possibly the Teamsters Union.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- Senate Bill 556/House Bill 3739
 - Lead service line replacement (Bush/Robinson)
 - Replacing the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses could cost Aurora more than \$200 million or more.
 - The legislation currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation.
 - Aurora supports the concept of lead service line replacement to protect children and everyone in the community.
 - A stakeholders' meeting will be held March 10 and Aurora plans to participate.
- Senate Bill 568
 - Fix the FOID Card Act (Villivalam)
 - Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC is working with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting.
 - Because it's the second anniversary of the incident, the two lawmakers held a press conference to call for changes to the state FOID law.
 - The sponsors are still working on the language and stakeholder meetings are scheduled to begin soon.
- House Bill 2379
 - Small Cell legislation (Walsh)
 - This legislation will be the extension of the Small Cell wireless bill that expires this year.

Please contact Dan Shomon (773) 339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964 with questions.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, April 2021

Federal earmarks

- Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives are bringing back earmarks. While they have not reached a final deal with Republicans, congressional offices are seeking earmark requests from municipalities such as Aurora.
- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) reached out to Congressmen Foster and Underwood and are working with them on possible transportation and infrastructure requests.
- Congressman Foster chose Aurora as number one on his list of Transportation and Infrastructure earmark requests. He is proposing \$1,138,000 in federal funding for road improvements on East New York Street from North Farnsworth Avenue to Welsh Drive.
- Congressional appropriations committees must still approve the request by the end of this year to guarantee funding in 2022.

Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

- Governor Pritzker proposed a 12 percent cut in Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) moneys for fiscal year 2022 that runs from July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2022.
- This percentage cut would cost Aurora \$2 million next state fiscal year.
- Aurora is joining Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in pushing back hard against any cuts.
- New Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch has been a longtime supporter of LGDF.
- Decision will be made when state budget is approved on May 30.

Ambulance Medicaid funding

- The City of Aurora has an opportunity to recoup up to possibly a few million dollars from new regulations that require fire departments to be reimbursed for transporting Medicaid patients.
- DSI worked with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Aurora should be able to start receiving Medicaid payments soon.

Lime sludge

- DSI is working with the lobbyists for LaFarge to advance a permit request pending before the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).
- The City of Aurora would like to dispose of lime sludge in an environmentally safe and financially sound fashion but must gain IEPA approval.
- The lime sludge disposal plan will save Aurora taxpayers approximately \$700,000 per year.
- The City still has a pending permit application with IEPA but a decision has not been made yet.

Shuttered Venue Operator Grants (Paramount Theatre)

- DSI organized a coalition of cities to fix technical problems with the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant program.
- The coalition includes Aurora, Rockford, Joliet, Peoria and the Quad Cities.
- Since these cities are under the Illinois Civic Center law, they are different from most venues and therefore are on a lower priority list currently because they are owned by municipalities.
- Senators Durbin and Duckworth are working to fix this technicality.

Ballistics technology funding

- Two new state representatives toured the Aurora Police Department (APD) technology to learn more about ballistics detection.
- APD houses the technology that helps law enforcement determine what bullets were used in specific crimes.
- Aurora works with the federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on the project and serves as the central point for law enforcement in seven collar counties.
- Rep. Maura Hirschauer, who represents part of Aurora, and Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback are asking the state to provide \$107,000 to pay for Aurora and the other agencies to have a three-year warranty on any repairs needed.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- Senate Bill 157/House Bill 3227
 - River Edge tax extension (Holmes/Gordon)
 - Extends the River Edge historic tax credit for five years until 2027, current credit expires on January 1, 2022.
 - Critical bill for Aurora because of upcoming projects.
 - More than 10 cosponsors including all Aurora-area legislators for the bill.
 - Bill passed out of the Senate Revenue Committee unanimously and is now under consideration in the full Senate.
 - Goal is to have the bill in final tax and budget packages.

- House Bill 2621/House Bill 798
 - Fire sprinkler inspectors (Willis)
 - DSI is working with the State Fire Marshal and City of Aurora to enact better regulations to protect citizens when it comes to fire sprinklers.
 - Goal of this effort is to make sure that all fire sprinkler firms use licensed installers and technicians when doing contracting work on fire safety.
 - Legislation is expected to be considered before the end of the Spring session of the General Assembly.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 1727
 - Ends qualified immunity for police officers (Tarver)
 - The "Bad Apples in Law Enforcement Accountability Act" (HB 1727) would eliminate qualified immunity statewide
 - If passed, it would allow for civil litigation against law enforcement if they "deprive any individual rights guaranteed under the Illinois Constitution."
 - The bill would also make it so that there is legal liability for police officers who do not intervene when other officers are breaking the law.
 - Municipalities would also be required to publicly disclose any legal settlements with law enforcement and there could be significant cost to the City of Aurora.
 - The bill passed out of a House committee last week. It is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor but is not expected to move during the Spring session.
- House Bill 267
 - Home inspection bill (Yingling)
 - Creates the Local Government Residential Inspection Limitation Act. Provides that, except for a fire, medical, or police emergency or as otherwise permitted by specified provisions of the Fire Investigation Act, a unit of local government may not conduct a physical inspection of residential property without the voluntary consent of the owner or occupant of the property, a lawful warrant, or court order.
 - Limits home rule powers
 - Aurora opposed this bill last session, and it didn't advance and it's unclear if the legislation has more momentum this year.
 - Bill did not pass out of committee before the deadline but can still be considered if it comes back as an amendment.
- House Bill 397
 - Restricts municipal trucking enforcement (Moylan)
 - The legislation would remove the authority of local municipalities to issue overweight oversized truck permits.
 - All permits would be issued by IDOT and local governments would have no say in the size of the trucks traveling over local roads.
 - The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is opposed.
 - Appears to be an initiative of the trucking industry or possibly the Teamsters Union.
 - Bill appears to be dead.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- Senate Bill 556/House Bill 3739
 - Lead service line replacement (Bush/Robinson)
 - Replacing the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses could cost Aurora more than \$200 million or more.
 - The legislation currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation as we have for the past several years.
 - Aurora supports the concept of lead service line replacement to protect children and everyone in the community.
 - Bill passed both houses and is expected to be approved before the end of the Spring session on May 30.
- House Bill 1711
 - Ban Illinois pet shops from selling animals from certain sources (Chesney)
 - This legislation provides that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter. The bill also requires that that an animal control facility or animal shelter that supplies dogs or cats to pet shop operators to be offered for sale shall not be a dog breeder or a cat breeder or obtain dogs or cats from a dog breeder, a cat breeder, a person who resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or a person who sells dogs or cats at auction in exchange for payment or compensation.
 - There are 40 sponsors of the bill and that includes many Republicans and Democrats. This legislation had 2,281 proponents who filed witness slips and 612 that filed in opposition. Proponents included the Humane Society of the United States and opponents included Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Petland and Furry Babies.
 - Senator Cristina Castro, D-Elgin, is sponsoring that bill in the State Senate and there are five other cosponsors including Senator Linda Holmes and Senator Karina Villa.
 - Bill will probably be voted on before the end of the session on May 30.
- House Bill 572
 - Prevents high interest pet financing (Carroll)
 - The legislation amends the Illinois Sales Finance Agency Act to provide that a sales finance agency shall not finance, enter a retail installment contract, or make a loan for the purchase of a canine or feline. Provides that if a sales finance agency violates the provisions, the financing, retail installment contract, or loan shall be null and void and the sales finance agency shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan, retail installment contract, or financing.
 - This legislation is to end the practice of some pet stores working with finance companies that are charging exorbitant interest on pet financing.
 - Witness slips were filed by 10 individuals and organizations supporting the bill and 51 that were opposed.

- Senator Linda Holmes of Aurora, the Senate Assistant Majority Leader, signed on to be the chief Senate sponsor of the bill. Senator Holmes is now the Assistant Majority Leader of the State Senate.
- Bill will probably be voted on by May 30, the last day of the Spring session.
- Senate Bill 568
 - Fix the FOID Card Act (Villivalam)
 - Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC is working with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting
 - On the second anniversary of the incident, the two lawmakers held a press conference to call for changes to the state FOID law.
 - The sponsors are still working on the language and stakeholder meetings are scheduled to begin soon.
 - Bill is expected to pass before the end of the Spring legislative session.
- House Bill 2379
 - Small Cell legislation (Walsh)
 - This legislation will be the extension of the Small Cell wireless bill that expires July 1, 2021.
 - Hearing and negotiations are beginning on the legislation by the House and Senate Public Utilities committees.
 - The Illinois Municipal League and the City of Aurora are seeking to increase local control over small cell wireless devices used for the deployment of 5G technology.

Please contact Dan Shomon (773) 339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964 with questions.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, May 2021

River Edge historic tax credit

- General Assembly passed a five-year extension of the River Edge Historic Tax Credit as part of Senate Bill 2017, the Illinois Budget Implementation Act.
- The credit will now expire on January 1, 2027 once the Governor signs the legislation in the next few weeks.
- All Aurora-area legislators sponsored the bill with Leader Holmes as chief sponsor in the Senate and cosponsors included Senator Karina Villa and Representatives Barbara Hernandez, Stephanie Kifowit and Maura Hirschauer.
- Coalition of towns and organizations worked together on the effort including:
 - Aurora
 - Elgin
 - Rockford
 - Peoria
 - East St. Louis
 - Landmarks Illinois
 - American Institute of Architects Illinois

Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

- Governor Pritzker has proposed a 12 percent cut in Local Government Distributive Fund moneys for fiscal year 2022 that runs from July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2022.
- However, an aggressive and coordinated lobbying effort saved the LGDF and there is no final cut for fiscal year 2022.
- This percentage cut would have cost Aurora approximately \$2 million next state fiscal year.
- New Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch has been a longtime supporter of LGDF.

Ambulance Medicaid funding

- The City of Aurora has an opportunity to recoup up to a few million dollars from new regulations that require fire departments to be reimbursed for transporting Medicaid patients.
- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) is working with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to assist Aurora and ensure we are able to receive Medicaid payments.

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Lime sludge

- DSI and technical experts from the City of Aurora and Lafarge met with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to work out solutions so City of Aurora can dispose of lime sludge in an environmentally safe fashion.
- This process requires approval from the IEPA.
- The lime sludge disposal plan will save Aurora taxpayers approximately \$700,000 per year.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- **Senate Bill 157/House Bill 3227 (Holmes/Gordon)**
 - River Edge tax extension
 - Extends the River Edge historic tax credit for five years until 2027.
 - Bill passed as part of Senate Bill 2017.
- **House Bill 3443 (Slaughter)**
 - Police reform cleanup
 - Legislation contains cleanup language for criminal justice reform bill that takes effect this year.
 - Besides this cleanup, state budget includes \$2 million for body cameras for Illinois law enforcement.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- **House Bill 633 (Harper/Koehler)**
 - Vegetable gardens
 - Bill would allow any person to cultivate vegetable gardens on their own property, or on the private property of another with the permission of the owner, in any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state.
 - The term "vegetable garden" means any plot of ground or elevated soil bed on residential property where vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, pollinator plants, leafy greens, or other edible plants are cultivated.
 - This legislation will prevent Aurora from being able to regulate the location of a garden.
 - Preempts home rule and any Aurora ordinances on the issue.
- **Senate Bill 2182 (Rep. Mark Walker)**
 - Labor peace agreements for data centers
 - Would require a "labor peace agreement" before new data centers can be renewed or existing data centers can have their licenses or permits renewed.
 - This labor-backed bill could hurt efforts by Aurora and other cities to attract data centers.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- **Senate Bill 556/House Bill 3739 (Bush/Robinson)**
 - Lead service line replacement
 - Bill mandates the replacement of the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses.
 - Legislation is estimated to cost Aurora more than \$200 million.
 - The legislation passed both houses and it currently contains an uncertain funding source, Aurora will continue to negotiate.
 - The bill will be heading to the Governor, where he is expected to sign.
 - Aurora supports the concept of lead service line replacement to protect children and everyone in the community but was working to secure funding.
- **House Bill 1711 (Chesney)**
 - Ban Illinois pet shops from selling from certain "puppy mills"
 - This legislation provides that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter.
 - There are 40 sponsors of the bill and that includes many Republicans and Democrats.
 - This legislation had 2,281 proponents who filed witness slips and 612 that filed in opposition.
 - Senator Cristina Castro, D-Elgin, is sponsoring that bill in the State Senate and there are five other cosponsors including Senator Linda Holmes and Senator Karina Villa.
 - Bill passed both houses and is on its way to the Governor's desk.
 - The legislation could affect Aurora's pending pet ordinance.
- **House Bill 572 (Carroll)**
 - Prevents high interest pet financing
 - The legislation amends the Illinois Sales Finance Agency Act to provide that a sales finance agency shall not finance, enter a retail installment contract, or make a loan for the purchase of a canine or feline.
 - Provides that if a sales finance agency violates the provisions, the financing, retail installment contract, or loan shall be null and void and the sales finance agency shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan, retail installment contract, or financing.
 - This legislation is to end the practice of some pet stores working with finance companies that are charging exorbitant interest on pet financing.
 - Bill is on its way to the Governor's desk for approval.

- **House Bill 562 (Hirschauer)**

- Fix the FOID Card Act
- Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC is working with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Representatives Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, and Maura Hirschauer, R-Batavia, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting.
- Bill aims to modernize the Firearm Owners' Identification (FOID) card system.
- The Illinois Senate passed House Bill 562, however, in this legislative session, the House failed to pass the bill.
- The legislation would enhance existing background checks. Those who own firearms lawfully and responsibly could apply for a FOID card that automatically renews, as long as they voluntarily submit their fingerprints.
- In addition, FOID cards and concealed carry licenses would be condensed into one document. Electronic copies of this documentation would be available.
- Under this bill, Illinois State Police would establish a portal that includes reports of people whose FOID cards have been revoked or suspended.
- This portal could be accessed for law enforcement purposes by local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, including State's Attorneys' Offices and the Office of the Attorney General.
- The bill passed in the Illinois House in a 77-30 vote on Friday, April 23. On Monday, May 31, it passed in the Senate in a 40-17 vote with some amendments added.
- The bill then had to go back to the House for a vote, but lawmakers failed to pass it.

- **House Bill 3743 (Walsh)**

- Small Cell legislation
- The bill passed early this morning and extends the law until December 31, 2024.
- The only minor improvements for municipalities seem to be here: "A municipality may propose that a small wireless facility be collocated on an existing utility pole within 200 feet of the wireless providers proposed location within its public rights-of-way under paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of Section 15 of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act and the entity owning the utility pole shall provide access for that purpose.
- The Governor signed the bill June 3 because the Small Cell bill expired on June 1, 2021.

- **Senate Bill 521 (Rita)**

- Gaming cleanup bill
- Caps the video gaming terminal fees that municipalities charge.
- Peoria is saying it's a massive revenue reduction for that city with the cap on local gaming fees.
- Pre-empts home rule authority.

Please contact Dan Shomon (773) 339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964 with questions.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, June 2021

River Edge historic tax credit extension signed:

- Governor Pritzker signed the five-year extension of the River Edge Historic Tax Credit as part of Senate Bill 2017, the Illinois Budget Implementation Act.
- The credit will now expire on January 1, 2027.
- All Aurora-area legislators sponsored the bill with Leader Holmes as chief sponsor in the Senate and cosponsors included Senator Karina Villa and Representatives Barbara Hernandez, Stephanie Kifowit and Maura Hirschauer.
- Coalition of towns and organizations worked together on the effort including:
 - Aurora
 - Elgin
 - Rockford
 - Peoria
 - East St. Louis
 - Landmarks Illinois
 - American Institute of Architects Illinois

Shuttered Venue Operator Grants:

- Officials at Paramount Theatre and the Aurora Civic Center Authority are optimistic about the approval of its grant request with the federal Small Business Administration.
- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) team has been working with Senator Durbin and other members of Congress to push for full funding of the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant program.
- Paramount lost millions of dollars because it had to shut down because of COVID.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- House Bill 3443 (Slaughter)
 - Police reform cleanup
 - Legislation contains cleanup language for criminal justice reform bill that takes effect this year.
 - Besides this cleanup, state budget includes \$2 million for body cameras for Illinois law enforcement.
 - Bill was signed by the Governor on June 25.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 633 (Harper/Koehler)
 - Vegetable gardens
 - Bill would allow any person to cultivate vegetable gardens on their own property, or on the private property of another with the permission of the owner, in any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state.
 - The term "vegetable garden" means any plot of ground or elevated soil bed on residential property where vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, pollinator plants, leafy greens, or other edible plants are cultivated.
 - Preempts home rule and any Aurora ordinances on the issue.
 - Bill was sent to the Governor on June 23, and he has 60 days to act on it.
- Senate Bill 2182 (Rep. Mark Walker)
 - Labor peace agreements for data centers
 - Would require a "labor peace agreement" before new data centers can be renewed, or existing data centers can have their licenses or permits renewed.
 - Labor-back bill could hurt effort by Aurora and other cities to attract data centers.
 - Bill did not pass but could be revived later.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- House Bill 562 (Hirschauer)
 - Fix the FOID Card Act
 - Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC worked with Senator Ram Villivalam and Representatives Kathleen Willis and Maura Hirschauer, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting
 - Bill aims to modernize the Firearm Owners' Identification (FOID) card system.
 - The legislation would enhance existing background checks. Those who own firearms lawfully and responsibly could apply for a FOID card that automatically renews, if they voluntarily submit their fingerprints.
 - In addition, FOID cards and concealed carry licenses would be condensed into one document; electronic copies of this documentation would be available.
 - Under this bill, Illinois State Police would establish a portal that includes reports of people whose FOID cards have been revoked or suspended.
 - This portal could be accessed for law enforcement purposes by local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, including State's Attorneys' Offices and the Office of the Attorney General.
 - The bill passed both houses and was sent to the Governor on June 30 and he has 60 days to act on it.

- Senate Bill 556/House Bill 3739 (Bush/Robinson)
 - Lead service line replacement
 - Replacing the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines will cost Aurora more than \$200 million.
 - The legislation passed both houses and it currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation.
 - Bill will be heading to the Governor, where he is expected to sign the legislation
 - Bill was sent to the Governor on June 29 and he has 60 days to act on it.

- House Bill 1711 (Chesney)
 - Ban Illinois pet shops from selling from certain "puppy mills"
 - This legislation provides that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter. The bill also requires that that an animal control facility or animal shelter that supplies dogs or cats to pet shop operators to be offered for sale shall not be a dog breeder or a cat breeder or obtain dogs or cats from a dog breeder, a cat breeder, a person who resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or a person who sells dogs or cats at auction in exchange for payment or compensation.
 - The bill was sent to the Governor on June 29 and he has 60 days to act on it.

- House Bill 572 (Carroll)
 - Prevents high interest pet financing
 - The legislation amends the Illinois Sales Finance Agency Act to provide that a sales finance agency shall not finance, enter a retail installment contract, or make a loan for the purchase of a canine or feline.
 - Provides that if a sales finance agency violates the provisions, the financing, retail installment contract, or loan shall be null and void and the sales finance agency shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan, retail installment contract, or financing.
 - This legislation is to end the practice of some pet stores working with finance companies that are charging exorbitant interest on pet financing.
 - Senator Linda Holmes of Aurora, the Senate Assistant Majority Leader, signed on to be the chief Senate sponsor of the bill.
 - Bill was sent to the Governor on June 25; and he has 60 days to act on it.

- House Bill 3743 (Walsh)
 - Small Cell legislation
 - The only minor improvements for municipalities seem to be here: "A municipality may propose that a small wireless facility be collocated on an existing utility pole within 200 feet of the wireless providers proposed location within its public rights-of-way under paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of Section 15 of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act and the entity owning the utility pole shall provide access for that purpose.
 - Governor signed the bill June 3 because the Small Cell bill expired on June 1, 2021.

- Senate Bill 521 (Rita)
 - Gaming cleanup bill
 - Caps the video gaming terminal fees that municipalities charge.
 - Peoria is saying it's a massive revenue reduction for that city with the cap on local gaming fees.
 - Bill did not pass but could be considered in the Fall Veto session.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Shomon at 773-339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, July 2021
(Submitted August 6th)

Shuttered Venue Operator Grants

- Officials at Paramount Theatre and the Aurora Civic Center Authority report that they have received all funds requested for its grant request with the federal Small Business Administration.
- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) has been working with Senator Durbin and other members of Congress to push for full funding of the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant program.
- Paramount lost millions of dollars because it had to shut down due to COVID.
- Paramount has received \$6.96 million under the program and could potentially qualify for \$3 million more.
- DSI will continue to monitor.

School reopening

- DSI worked with the Mayor's office and assisted in a letter sent to the Governor asking for clarify in the state's reopening plan for schools across the state.
- Aurora-area superintendents have been concerned about conflicting state guidance on mask wearing and school policies as they reopen.
- Even though CDC has issued guidance on school reopening, the DSI is continuing to assist the Mayor and superintendents with ongoing issues.

NIBIN ballistics technology

- Aurora police had worked with Reps. Maura Hirschauer and Denyse Wang Stoneback on trying to find funding for a five-year extension of the warranty for ballistics technology.
- The \$109,087 was not directly appropriated in the fiscal year 2022 Illinois state budget plan.
- The National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) is managed for the Chicago region by Aurora police and housed at the police headquarters.
- Reps. Hirschauer and Stoneback have pledged to work with the Speaker to find funding for the warranty by October.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- House Bill 562
 - Fix the FOID Card Act (Hirschauer)
 - Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC worked with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Representatives Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, and Maura Hirschauer, R-Batavia, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting.
 - Bill aims to modernize the Firearm Owners' Identification (FOID) card system.
 - The legislation would enhance existing background checks. Those who own firearms lawfully and responsibly could apply for a FOID card that automatically renews, as long as they voluntarily submit their fingerprints.
 - In addition, FOID cards and concealed carry licenses would be condensed into one document. Electronic copies of this documentation would be available.
 - Under this bill, Illinois State Police would establish a portal that includes reports of people whose FOID cards have been revoked or suspended.
 - This portal could be accessed for law enforcement purposes by local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, including State's Attorneys' Offices and the Office of the Attorney General.
 - The Governor signed the bill at a signing ceremony in Aurora August 2.

Bills Aurora is opposed to:

- House Bill 633
 - Vegetable gardens (Harper/Koehler)
 - Bill would allow any person to cultivate vegetable gardens on their own property, or on the private property of another with the permission of the owner, in any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state.
 - The term "vegetable garden" means any plot of ground or elevated soil bed on residential property where vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, pollinator plants, leafy greens, or other edible plants are cultivated.
 - Preempts home rule and any Aurora zoning ordinances on the issue.
 - Bill was signed by the Governor on July 30.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- House Bill 3739
 - Lead service line replacement (Bush/Robinson)
 - Replacing the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses will likely cost Aurora more than \$200 million or more.
 - The legislation passed both houses and it currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation.
 - Bill will be heading to the Governor, where he is expected to sign the legislation
 - Bill was sent to the Governor on June 29 and he has 60 days to act on it.

- House Bill 1711
 - Ban Illinois pet shops from selling from certain “puppy mills” (Chesney)
 - This legislation provides that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter.
 - The bill also requires that that an animal control facility or animal shelter that supplies dogs or cats to pet shop operators to be offered for sale shall not be a dog breeder or a cat breeder or obtain dogs or cats from a dog breeder, a cat breeder, a person who resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or a person who sells dogs or cats at auction in exchange for payment or compensation.
 - There are 40 sponsors of the bill and that includes many Republicans and Democrats. This legislation had 2,281 proponents who filed witness slips and 612 that filed in opposition.
 - Senator Cristina Castro, D-Elgin, is sponsoring that bill in the State Senate and there are five other cosponsors including Senator Linda Holmes and Senator Karina Villa.
 - The bill was sent to the Governor on June 29 and he has 60 days to act on it.

- House Bill 572
 - Prevents high interest pet financing (Carroll)
 - The legislation amends the Illinois Sales Finance Agency Act to provide that a sales finance agency shall not finance, enter a retail installment contract, or make a loan for the purchase of a canine or feline.
 - Provides that if a sales finance agency violates the provisions, the financing, retail installment contract, or loan shall be null and void and the sales finance agency shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan, retail installment contract, or financing.
 - This legislation is to end the practice of some pet stores working with finance companies that are charging exorbitant interest on pet financing.
 - Senator Linda Holmes of Aurora, the Senate Assistant Majority Leader, signed on to be the chief Senate sponsor of the bill. Senator Holmes is now the Assistant Majority Leader of the State Senate.
 - Bill was signed by the Governor on July 23.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Shomon at 773-339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, August 2021
(submitted on September 7, 2021)

Ambulance reimbursement funding

- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) has been working with State of Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) officials about receiving fair reimbursement from the Medicaid program for City of Aurora fire and ambulance calls treating Medicaid patients.
- Aurora started receiving reimbursements from the state, and DSI successfully pushed the Medicaid Department at HFS to add three more months of funding for the city, which should result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in reimbursements.
- DSI will continue to push for additional retroactive payments.

Census

- The most recent U.S. Census data indicated that the City of Aurora has lost about 18,000 residents.
- DSI is working with city officials to help identify possible counting errors and identifying experts who can help the City with the process; this includes the Great Cities Institute at University of Illinois-Chicago, which has several experts on Census data.

Rebuild Illinois competitive grant program

- The State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has received hundreds of applications for the Rebuild Illinois competitive grant program.
- DSI is working with local legislators and the Governor's Office to advance Aurora's applications for the program's capital grants.
- A decision is expected from the state soon.

Key bills to track:

Bills Aurora is supporting:

- House Bill 562
 - Fix the FOID Card Act (Hirschauer)
 - The Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC worked with Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, and Representatives Kathleen Willis, D-Northfield, and Maura Hirschauer, R-Batavia, on legislation to respond to the Henry Pratt shooting.
 - Bill aims to modernize the Firearm Owners' Identification (FOID) card system.
 - The legislation would enhance existing background checks.

- Individuals who own firearms lawfully and responsibly could apply for a FOID card that automatically renews, if they voluntarily submit their fingerprints.
- In addition, FOID cards and concealed carry licenses would be condensed into one document; electronic copies of this documentation would be available.
- Under this bill, Illinois State Police would establish a portal that includes reports of people whose FOID cards have been revoked or suspended.
- This portal could be accessed for law enforcement purposes by local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, including State's Attorneys' Offices and the Office of the Attorney General.
- The Governor signed the bill at a signing ceremony in Aurora August 2.

Bills Aurora is monitoring:

- House Bill 3739
 - Lead service line replacement (Bush/Robinson)
 - Replacing the city's more than 24,000 lead service lines going to homes and businesses will likely cost Aurora more than \$200 million or more.
 - The legislation passed both houses and it currently contains an uncertain funding source so Aurora will continue to negotiate on the legislation.
 - Bill will be heading to the Governor, where he is expected to sign the legislation
 - Aurora supports the concept of lead service line replacement to protect children and everyone in the community.
 - Bill was signed by the Governor on August 27.
- House Bill 1711
 - Bans Illinois pet shops from selling from "puppy mills" (Chesney)
 - This legislation provides that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter.
 - The bill also requires that that an animal control facility or animal shelter that supplies dogs or cats to pet shop operators to be offered for sale shall not be a dog breeder or a cat breeder or obtain dogs or cats from a dog breeder, a cat breeder, a person who resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or a person who sells dogs or cats at auction in exchange for payment or compensation.
 - There are 40 sponsors of the bill and that includes many Republicans and Democrats.
 - The legislation could affect Aurora's pending pet ordinance.
 - The Governor signed the bill on August 27.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Shomon at 773-339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964.

DAN SHOMON

INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, September 2021 (submitted on October 7, 2021)

Census

- U.S. Census results from 2020 have indicated that the City of Aurora lost approximately nine percent of our population.
- The lobby team has been working with city officials to help identify possible counting errors and identifying experts who can help the City with the process.
- Through the lobby team, we identified the Great Cities Institute at University of Illinois-Chicago, which has several experts on Census data and the city is now working with demographer Rob Paral of the Institute.
- The Illinois Secretary of State certified the Census results on September 30 and the final population number is now 180,542.
- Lobbyist team also contacted Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and Latino Policy Forum about gathering information for Aurora and for an update on redistricting legal cases.
- Lobbyists wrote FOIA request to Illinois Department of Human Services to find out what work “community navigators” performed in Aurora as part of the Census data gathering efforts.

Nicor

- Assisted city officials with concerns about possible delays on two important city projects where Nicor services are needed – one for residential and one for commercial.

Philhellenes Memorial

- Worked with Senator Durbin’s office to get a letter of support for dedication of Philhellenes Memorial in Aurora on September 25.

Illinois Municipal League convention

- Attended seminar with key state officials about distribution of ARPA funds, questions about Census and police reform discussion.

Legislative breakfast

- Helped plan November legislative breakfast with Aurora-area legislators.
- Working on agenda dealing with lead service lines, Census and other issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Shomon at 773-339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964.



INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, October 2021

Bills to track

- House Bill 3512 (Slaughter)
 - o Police cleanup bill
 - o Agreed upon language between law enforcement and advocates advanced in Springfield but did not gain final passage.
 - o The bill would have helped fix or delay some January 1 deadlines from the original police reform bill that are untenable to police departments, such as:
 - Three phone calls
 - Body cameras
 - Decertification process
 - Use of force
 - Mental health screenings
 - New training requirements
 - Anonymous complaints
 - o Sponsors of the bill say they will try to pass legislation in January when the General Assembly returns to Springfield.
- House Bill 3136 (Rita)
 - o Gaming bill
 - o Legislation would prohibit additional communities from trying to impose a “Push Tax” on video gaming terminals.
 - o Oak Lawn invented the Push Tax to increase the local municipal revenue from VGT’s.
 - o In 2019, new gaming legislation increased the state’s VGT revenue split from 25% to 29%. However, municipalities’ cut was 5% then and remains 5% now.
 - o The video gaming industry is suing Oak Lawn and other communities that imposed an additional tax.
 - o Aurora does not have a push tax.
 - o Bill passed and it is on its way to the Governor, where it is expected to be signed.
- House Bill 1291 (Hernandez)
 - o Congressional redistrict map
 - o Legislature passed a new map for congressional districts in Illinois.
 - o Primary is scheduled for June 2022.

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Census

- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) continues its efforts to support the City of Aurora investigation into the 2020 Census results.
- DSI continued to attend seminars with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to find out additional information about possible remedies for the loss of nearly 18,000 residents in the City.
- DSI participated in a presentation at the Aurora City Council Committee of the Whole of November 2 with Rob Paral, the demographer who is assisting the city in its efforts and works for the University of Illinois Chicago Great Cities Institute.

Lobby Day in Springfield to meet Chief Cross

- Lobby team (DSI and Vision M.A.I.) organized meetings in Springfield for new Aurora Police Chief and Deputy Chief, including Senate President Don Harmon and House Speaker Emmanuel Chris Welch.
- More than 25 legislators attended a meet and greet reception for the new police leadership team and Deputy Mayor.

Nicor

- Assisted city officials with concerns about possible delays on two important city projects where Nicor services are needed – one residential and one commercial.
- City held a call with Nicor and company reported progress on the projects.

Drones

- There is a possibility of some legislation authorizing drones for certain police practices to help protect public safety.
- Aurora and the lobby team plan to work with other cities in Illinois that want to modernize existing regulations on drones.

Solid waste packaging coalition

- Some regional solid waste organizations are forming a coalition to push for legislation to require manufacturers to bear more of the burden to reduce solid waste.
- DSI participated in a call to hear more about the proposal and will continue to monitor the legislation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Shomon at 773-339-0476 or Corryn Bradley at 708-490-9964.

DAN SHOMON

INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, November 2021

Kane County

- Attended Kane County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee meetings and spoke with committee members about \$4 million available from ARPA funds for Aurora-area non-profits.
- Hesed House and AID (Association for Individual Development) plan to apply for the grants.
- Applications should be available soon for non-profits.

NIBIN and anti-ballistics technology

- Aurora Police Department houses and maintains high-level technology to be able to analyze bullets to solve crimes in the Chicago area.
- The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a joint effort between Aurora Police, local police departments of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
- City and lobbyist team are working with Reps. Denyse Wang Stoneback and Maura Hirschauer to obtain \$105,000 in state funding to pay for the warranty needed for the technology.
- Also, a new state gun control law will expand the use of NIBIN technology and the lawmakers are seeking to have grants to local police department to increase the effort.

Census

- Lobby team continues its efforts to support the City of Aurora investigation into the 2020 Census results.
- City of Aurora will seek official notification from the Illinois Secretary of State about whether possible federal Census adjustments will affect money distributed by state government.
- Lobbyist team did a presentation at the Aurora City Council Committee of the Whole of November 2 with Rob Paral, the demographer who is assisting the city in its efforts and works for the University of Illinois Chicago Great Cities Institute.

Drones

- Aurora planned a call with other police departments on December 10 to discuss possible drone legislation for the 2022 Spring legislative session.
- There is a possibility of some legislation authorizing drones for certain police practices to help protect public safety.