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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report January 2020

Legislation to track:

- House Bill 322 (McSweeney)
 - Bill proposes to ban red-light cameras in non-home rule communities.
 - Scandals in the red-light industry have boosted the chance of this legislation passing.
 - The City of Aurora runs a very successful red-light program where officers review each ticket and the cameras have resulted in less crashes at intersections.
 - City staff created a fact sheet about the Red Light program and sent letters to all of our local Legislators opposing the bill, even though at this point it would not impact Aurora.
 - The city is also on record opposing State Comptroller Susana Mendoza's initiative to stop collecting overdue fines for communities with red light cameras.
- Senate Bill 2481 (Munoz)
 - Bill would repeal trade-in cap for auto dealers.
 - Car buyers in Illinois with a trade-in worth more than \$10,000 are paying more sales effective Jan. 1, after the state's General Assembly declined to amend an upcoming law during its fall veto session, which results in municipalities losing out on local sales taxes.
 - The Chicago Automotive Trade Association, the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association and others had sought to pass legislation to repeal the \$10,000 cap before 2020 but were unsuccessful.
 - Under the cap, a person who buys a \$35,000 vehicle and trades in another vehicle worth \$20,000 still can buy the next car for \$15,000, but will see the sales tax based on a \$25,000 transaction, meaning the consumer will pay about \$700-\$920 more in sales tax compared to today's computations.
 - The bill usurps local authorities and hurts Aurora and instead will result in taking away local sales taxes and increasing state taxes by \$60 million.
 - Aurora will be working with other groups in favor of this proposed legislation.

- Senate Bill 2284 (Manar)
 - Bill proposes to reduce the burden on local governments when getting grants.
 - Legislation amends the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act and says the requirements established under the Act do not apply to State shared revenues distributed by formula to units of local government from the Local Government Distributive Fund, the Personal Property Tax Replacement Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, or the Transportation Renewal Fund.
 - The bill would reduce the administrative burden on local government.
 - Aurora is in support of this bill.

- House Bill 158 (DeLuca)
 - Bill seeks to restore the local government share of the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF).
 - From February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021, the amount transferred from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) to LGDF shall be 8.5% of the net revenue realized from the state income tax and 9.355% of the net revenue realized from the tax imposed on corporations.
 - From February 1, 2021-January 31, 2022, the amount transferred from GRF to LGDF shall be 9% of the net revenue realized from the state income tax and 9.57% of the net revenue realized from the tax imposed on corporations.
 - From February 1, 2022-January 31, 2023, the amount transferred from GRF to LGDF shall be 9.5% of the net revenue realized from the state income tax and 9.785% of the net revenue realized from the tax imposed on corporations.
 - Beginning on February 1, 2023, the Treasurer shall transfer each month from GRF to LGDF an amount equal to 10% of the net revenue realized from the state income tax and from the tax imposed on corporations.
 - Passage of this bill is contingent on the passage of the Graduated Income Tax Bill.

Government relations issues:

- Lead service line regulations
 - The Illinois Environmental Council is working with Senator Heather Steans on legislation to require municipalities across Illinois to replace lead service lines.
 - Aurora remains committed to protecting citizens from lead exposure, but the city cannot afford the massive price tag of the bill in its current form.
 - The legislation being developed may be funded with a statewide water fee, but no specific plans have been introduced.
 - Aurora has retained our subject-matter expert again in order to participate in the on-going negotiations.

- Lime sludge
 - Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) is working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and local legislators to obtain permit approval for City of Aurora for lime sludge disposal.
 - The city is seeking a cost-effective solution to lime sludge disposal and is working to make sure that it meets state and federal regulations.
 - State legislation is being drafted to require IEPA to issue a permit modification but it's not 100 percent clear that the IEPA will support the bill.
 - The City of Aurora is also working with U.S. EPA and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's office to see if that agency can assist with a possible waiver to allow the project to go forward.
- Northeast Multi-Regional Training funds
 - The State has cut off funding for police training for Aurora and many other communities in the Northeast Multi-Regional training program.
 - DSI is working with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police on possible fixes to the situation.
- Fire sprinkler inspection legislation
 - The State Fire Marshal has drafted legislation to strengthen state regulation of fire sprinkler inspectors.
 - The City of Aurora will play a role in negotiating the legislation.

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

DAN SHOMON

INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report February 2020

Legislation to track:

- House Bill 322 (McSweeney)
 - Bill seeks to ban red-light cameras in non-home rule communities.
 - Scandals in the red-light industry have boosted the chance of this legislation passing.
 - The City of Aurora runs a very successful photo enforcement program where officers review each ticket and the cameras have resulted in less crashes at intersections.
 - The Bill passed the Illinois House but a compromise is expected in the Illinois Senate.
 - The City of Aurora will continue to lobby lawmakers to educate them about the issue.
- Senate Bill 3291 (Holmes)
 - Bill seeks to allow Aurora to obtain lime-sludge disposal permit.
 - The Legislation would require the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to issue a permit for safe disposal of lime sludge for Aurora.
 - If successful, the legislation will save at least \$7 million for Aurora taxpayers.
 - The City of Aurora is also working with U.S. EPA and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's office to see if that agency can assist with a possible waiver to allow the project to go forward.
- House Bill 4704 (Harper)
 - Right to Garden Act
 - The City of Aurora is opposed because this bill would preempt local control and zoning of residential gardens.
 - There has been an amendment filed that restricts municipalities from regulating the use of season extension techniques and devices on residential property.
 - This amendment is currently in Rules Committee.
 - Preempts local control and also preempts home rule.

Government relations issues:

- Orchard Road traffic signal
 - Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) is working with Kane County officials to get approval of Kane County Board for a variance to allow traffic signal on Orchard Road.
 - The project would create jobs at current Toyota site at Orchard Road at Bushwood.
- Lead service line regulations
 - The Illinois Environmental Council is working with Senator Heather Steans on legislation to require municipalities across Illinois to replace lead service lines
 - Aurora is committed to protecting citizens from lead exposure, but city cannot afford the massive price tag of replacing thousands of lead service lines.
 - The legislation being developed will probably be funded with a statewide water fee but no specific plans have been introduced.
- Northeast Multi-Regional Training funds for police
 - The State has cut off funding for police training for Aurora and many other communities in the Northeast Multi-Regional training program.
 - DSI is working with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police on possible fixes to the situation.
 - The City of Aurora delivered a letter to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor urging the \$5 million to be restored for the program.
 - City staff also visited Springfield to meet with the Governor's Staff on the issue as well.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report March 2020

Illinois General Assembly

- Due to the Coronavirus, the Illinois General Assembly has canceled two weeks of session and has no plans to go back into session soon. The General Assembly is supposed to be on its Spring Break beginning April 2 and returning April 20 but the Legislature is not expected to meet because of social distancing concerns and a state lockdown until April 30.
- The Legislature will need to approve a Fiscal Year 2021 state budget by May 30 but leaders are figuring out how to meet in a safe way before the end of May; Fiscal Year 2021 begins on July 1, 2020.
- Most other legislative issues have been put on the back burner, besides the budget, a hospital assessment for Medicaid and funding for the Coronavirus.
- Capital funding promised to the city over the next six years will not be immediately released but hopefully will be accessed next fiscal year.

Coronavirus

- Grants and loans
 - State and local governments are getting \$150 billion in the federal stimulus package but the money for the City of Aurora must be distributed by the State of Illinois; so far there is no protocol for release of these funds.
 - Lobbying team is helping the City navigate possible grants and loans available.
 - City estimates that it will need tens of millions of dollars in funding due to losses in tax revenue from the state and from sources such as the outlet mall and casino.
 - The Justice Department posted its solicitation for states and local communities to apply for supplemental Byrne-JAG grants for law enforcement agencies to buy PPE. There was \$850M provided overall in the third CV package for this; in IL, the state is eligible for about \$20M and local communities are eligible for about \$11M more. Aurora is going to be able to receive this grant
 - Aurora is also getting additional HUD CDBG funding because of the Coronavirus
 - The City of Aurora will do a call with state and federal legislators to continue to assess and apply for opportunities.

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- Paramount
 - Lobby team is working with the Aurora Civic Center Authority and Paramount Theater on possible funding solutions due to lost revenue from canceled concerts and shows
 - As a municipal corporation, Paramount is in a unique position and is not eligible for many Coronavirus grants and loans.
 - City is working with Paramount to find a special state bailout for theaters and convention centers
- First responder testing site
 - City of Aurora has asked the state and federal government to establish a first responder testing site for the more than 500 police officers and firefighters in the city
 - Sugar Grove, North Aurora and Montgomery have joined Aurora in calling for the first responder testing site.
- FEMA/IEMA
 - Lobby team has been working with the city and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to make sure first responders have adequate Personal Protective Equipment
 - City is also working with IEMA on applying for a federal, FEMA disaster grant and assistance.

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

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report April 2020

Illinois General Assembly

- Due to the Coronavirus, the Illinois General Assembly has canceled weeks of session and has no plans to go back into session soon.
- The Legislature will need to approve a Fiscal Year 2021 state budget by May 30th but leaders are figuring out how to meet in a safe way before the end of May; Fiscal Year 2021 begins on July 1, 2020.
- Most other legislative issues have been put on the back burner, besides the budget, a hospital assessment for Medicaid and funding for the Coronavirus.
- Capital funding promised to the city over the next six years will not be immediately released but hopefully will be accessed next fiscal year.

Coronavirus

- Outreach to legislators
 - City of Aurora held conference calls with state and federal legislators and staff to discuss stimulus funding opportunities and to detail the city's potential loss of revenue.
 - Aurora has estimated a loss of about \$30 million due to Coronavirus tax revenue and expenses.
- County funding
 - City of Aurora is preparing a detailed list of its Coronavirus expenses so it can apply for stimulus funding from Kane, DuPage and Will counties, which are receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for COVID 19 related expenses that occurred in those counties.
 - Lobbyist team is reaching out to these county officials to make sure Aurora's expenses are considered.
- Paramount and civic centers
 - Lobby team is working with Aurora Civic Center Authority and Paramount Theater on possible funding solutions due to lost revenue from canceled concerts and shows

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- As a municipal corporation, Paramount is in a unique position and is not eligible for many Coronavirus grants and loans.
 - City is working with Paramount to find a special state bailout for theaters and convention centers
 - Lobbyist team organized a call of the seven key civic centers in Illinois and Aurora has formed a coalition with Joliet, Rockford, Peoria, Bloomington, Springfield and the Quad Cities to ask for a special stimulus package for civic centers.
 - A call is scheduled with state legislators representing those cities on May 6 and another call with our congressional staff on May 7th.
- Casino stimulus
 - Lobbyist team organized a call of all the nine casino cities in Illinois and these towns wrote a letter to the Governor and their local legislators asking for a special stimulus package for these towns.
 - Over 5,000 casino workers have already been furloughed and casino towns have lost tens of millions of dollars in state funding due to the crisis.
 - City will continue to work with casino towns to make sure it is getting the attention of lawmakers.
 - First responder testing site
 - City of Aurora asked the state and federal government to establish a first responder testing site for the more than 500 police officers and firefighters in the city
 - Sugar Grove, North Aurora and Montgomery joined Aurora in calling for the first responder testing site.
 - Lobbyist team played a key role in securing the site at the Simon Outlet Mall.

Lime sludge disposal

- Lobbyist team continues to work on seeking IEPA and USEPA approval for Aurora's cost-efficient and environmentally safe plan to dispose of lime sludge.
- Senator Linda Holmes, Assistant Senate Majority Leader, introduced Senate Bill 3291 and the legislation passed the Senate Environment Committee and is now up for consideration in the full State Senate when the legislative session resumes.
- Lafarge is assisting the city in pushing the legislation while at the same time trying to get regulatory approval.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report May 2020

Legislative session/budget/capital funding

- The Illinois General Assembly approved a budget for fiscal year 2021 that begins on July 1. Governor is expected to sign this soon.
- Local government funding -- The Illinois Municipal League lobbied hard to make sure that Local Government Distributive Fund funding was not cut in the budget. IML said LGDF revenue rates will increase slightly (by eliminating the 5% cut made in fiscal year 2020). In his closing remarks during floor debate on the state budget, Senate President Don Harmon stated, "For the first time since before the budget impasse (2017), the General Assembly is not withholding any portion of the Local Government Distributive Fund."
- Capital projects -- Also, legislators submitted new capital projects at the last minute. (House Bill 54). These projects had to have a "regional benefit" and our Aurora lawmakers wanted to have the input and involvement of North Aurora and unincorporated Kane County. With help from the Aurora team and Public Works Director Ken Schroth, Aurora submitted \$6 million in projects that benefit Aurora and North Aurora and these projects are in the new capital bill. Those projects are controlled by the City of Aurora, not North Aurora or Kane County.
- Also, it appears that Rep. Keith Wheeler, Assistant House Republican Leader, and Senator Jim Oberweis, put in \$750,000 in the capital bill for sound barriers on Orchard Road.
- However, none of these projects will be funded by the state for at least a year.

FOIA

- FOIA rules were strengthened by the General Assembly during the Coronavirus executive order and these rules mandate Aurora and other communities meet stricter guidelines for attending meetings and recording them.

Coronavirus

- County funding
 - City of Aurora is working with Kane, DuPage and Will counties, which have each received CARES Act funding. Kane County received \$92 million, DuPage County \$161 million and Will County \$120 million.
 - The Illinois General Assembly decided to make these three counties – and Cook and Lake counties – distribute money directly to their local communities instead of giving a direct state distribution.
 - Kane, DuPage and Will counties have set up task forces to distribute the funds but have been slow-moving in releasing funds to Aurora and other communities.
 - Lobbyist team is reaching out to these county officials to make sure Aurora is not forgotten in funding requests.
 - Kane County has scheduled a task force hearing on June 24 where Aurora and other municipalities are expected to testify about funding needs.
- Paramount and civic centers
 - Lobbyist team is working with Aurora Civic Center Authority and Paramount Theater on possible funding solutions due to lost revenue from canceled concerts and shows
 - As a municipal corporation, Paramount is in a unique position and is not eligible for many Coronavirus grants and loans.
 - Lobbyist team organized a call of the seven key civic centers in Illinois and Aurora has formed a coalition with Joliet, Rockford, Peoria, Bloomington, Springfield and the Quad Cities to ask for a special stimulus package for civic centers.

Lime sludge disposal

- Lobbyist team continues to work on seeking IEPA and USEPA approval for Aurora's cost-efficient and environmentally safe plan to dispose of lime sludge.
- Senator Linda Holmes, Assistant Senate Majority Leader, introduced Senate Bill 3291 and the legislation passed the Senate Environment Committee but with the legislative session mostly canceled for this year, the legislation is not expected to move.
- Lafarge is assisting the city in pushing the legislation while at the same time trying to get regulatory approval.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report June 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act funding

- The Illinois General Assembly decided to make Kane, DuPage and Will counties distribute Coronavirus Relief Fund money directly to their local communities instead of giving a direct state distribution from the state's CARES Act money.
- Kane, DuPage and Will counties set up task forces and committees to distribute the funds but have been slow-moving in releasing funds to Aurora and other communities.

Kane County

- Attended several key meetings in person and virtually on behalf of Aurora for Kane County, including County Board meetings, and Executive Committee, Finance committee and Coronavirus Relief Funding Task Force meetings.
- Lobbied board members and leaders in the county to ensure Aurora receives its fair share of \$92 million in CARES Act funding.
- Conducted individual meetings with key county board members, including Matt Hanson, Angie Thomas, Bill Lenert and Theresa Barreiro.
- Wrote letters and prepared fact sheets for county board members and county officials.

DuPage County

- Attended key meetings virtually on behalf of Aurora including the DuPage County Board Finance Committee.
- Met with DuPage County board members including Jim Healy, Dawn DeSart, Bob Larsen and James Zay virtually to ask for Aurora's fair share of the county's \$161 million in CARES Act funding.

Will County

- Attended county board meetings virtually on behalf of Aurora to push for Aurora's fair share of \$120 million in CARES Act funding for Will County.
- Met virtually with County Executive Denise Winfrey, County Speaker Mimi Cowan and County Executive Chief of Staff Nick Palmer, along with key county board members such as Meta Mueller.

Paramount Theatre (Aurora Civic Center Authority)

- Worked with CEO Tim Rater and Paramount officials to push for additional help in Washington, D.C. to make the Aurora Civic Center Authority eligible for funding.
- Organized conference calls with state and federal legislators to push for convention center funding.
- Efforts are ongoing.

Golfview

- Updated Aurora city officials on possible efforts to obtain state funding to mitigate flooding in unincorporated Kane County and portions of the City of Aurora in the Golfview subdivision.
- Rep. Barbara Hernandez and Kane County have secured support to work on possible flooding mitigations solutions.

Lime sludge disposal

- Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) lobby team continues to work on seeking IEPA and USEPA approval for Aurora's cost-efficient and environmentally safe plan to dispose of lime sludge.
- Lafarge is assisting the city in pushing the legislation while at the same time working to obtain regulatory approval.
- Approval would result in substantial savings for the City of Aurora.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report July 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act funding

- **Kane County**
 - Worked closely with Metro West Council of Governments (MWCOC) to continue to push hard for fair funding for Aurora and other municipalities at various Kane County meetings where CARES Act was discussed.
 - Kane County government is deciding how to release almost \$93 million in CARES Act funding.
 - Contacted key county officials including County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen, Auditor Terry Hunt and many other county board members.
 - Attended many meetings of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Task Force on behalf of Aurora and the new Cares Act Allocation Committee at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva.
- **DuPage County**
 - Worked with DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) on advocating for CARES Act funding for Aurora and other municipalities.
 - DuPage County Board is deciding how and who to distribute \$161 million in CARES Act funding.
- **Will County**
 - Tracked Will County's effort to release \$120 million in CARES Act funding, a portion of which is going to go to municipalities.
 - Contacted key elected officials.
- **U.S. Department of the Treasury**
 - Attended weekly calls with the White House on behalf of the City of Aurora to monitor Department of the Treasury news and updates on Coronavirus Relief Funding.
 - Coordinated a conference call with Senator Durbin's office and US Treasury officials on July 31 to confirm what expenses are eligible for Aurora to claim as Coronavirus expenses.
 - Sent follow-up letter to the Treasury Inspector General to further clarify the eligible expenses.

- **Paramount and Civic Centers**
 - Continued to push for funding and legislative changes to help Aurora Civic Center Authority and Paramount Theatre
 - Working in a partnership with other civic center authorities throughout the State of Illinois.
- **State economic development grants**
 - Working with the City to support Aurora's applications for state grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Rebuild Illinois program.
 - Assisting the City in letters of support and lobbying for the applications.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report August 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act

- Kane County
 - Worked closely with Metro West Council of Governments to continue to push hard for reimbursement of COVID 19 expenses from the county's \$92.9 million in CARES Act funding.
 - Attended weekly Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee meetings at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva on behalf of Aurora.
 - Communicated frequently with County Board members to push for fast funding for Aurora.
 - The City of Aurora is eligible for up to \$7.6 million in funding from Kane County as a possible reimbursement for COVID expenses.
 - Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor and lobby on behalf of Aurora.
- Will County
 - Tracked Will County's effort to release \$120 million in CARES Act funding, a portion of which is going to go to municipalities.
 - Contacted key elected officials to urge quick release of Aurora's COVID 19 expenses from Will County's Coronavirus Relief Funding.
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
 - Attended weekly calls with the White House to monitor Department of the Treasury news and updates on Coronavirus Relief Funding.
 - Worked with Senator Durbin's office to push Treasury for more guidance on expenses.
 - Followed up with emails to Treasury to show the urgency of coming out with new guidance.
- Testing
 - Worked with City of Aurora to raise attention to problems with the state contractor doing testing at the Chicago Premium Outlet Mall and at mobile sites in Aurora.
 - Worked with Representative Hernandez to draft a letter to the state urging improvements in the testing program.
 - Followed up with the Governor's Office about making these improvements.

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State economic development grants

- Working with the City to support Aurora's applications for state grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Rebuild Illinois program.
- Obtained a letter of support from the Fox Valley Building Trades for Aurora's applications.
- Discussed the application process with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to determine Aurora's best navigation plan for the grants.

Census

- Attended call with the Governor's office on the need to get Census forms filled out by the end of September.
- Governor's Office offered to assist Aurora in doing Census-related events.

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City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report September 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act

- Kane County
 - Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) worked closely with Metro West Council of Governments to continue to push hard for reimbursement of COVID 19 expenses from the county's \$92.9 million in CARES Act funding.
 - Attended regular Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee meetings at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva to advocate on behalf of Aurora.
 - Worked with the City of Aurora on guidelines for submission of CARES Act expenses.
 - Communicated frequently with county board members to urge expedited distribution of funds for Aurora and other Kane County towns.
 - Aurora is eligible for up to \$7.6 million in funding from Kane County as a possible reimbursement for COVID expenses.
- Will County CARES Act funding
 - Continued to advocate for the release of Will County CARES Act funding for Aurora.
- Testing
 - Worked with City of Aurora and the Governor's Office to help the state move the Aurora testing location from the Chicago Premium Outlet Mall.
 - The City was able to obtain a suitable site for the state testing program on city property on Farnsworth Avenue.

Cannabis

- Assisted in tracking the status of the state approval of a secondary site application to open a recreational cannabis dispensary in Aurora.
- The State has now prioritized the approval of this application by Zen Leaf, the applicant is awaiting further information.

Lead service lines

- Provided background information to have this item added to the agenda for the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) for the 2021 legislative session.
- Aurora remains concerned because discussions are occurring among groups about negotiating a possible fee program to pay for the replacement of lead service lines without municipalities present.

5G Small Cell wireless tower issue

- State legislation was introduced to help municipalities regulate 5G small cell site in their communities.
- Aurora put this on the legislative priority list for the DMMC.
- The law expires next year so it will be coming back up in the 2021 General Assembly session.

Advisory Commission on Disabilities

- DSI worked with the Mayor's office to set up a Town Hall meeting with State Treasurer to discuss the ABLE program.
- The city has prioritized providing information to our community of persons with disabilities on State programs virtually.

River Edge Redevelopment zone

- The River Edge Redevelopment Zone Act expires in 2021 so the City of Aurora is reinvigorating our partnership with the cities of Elgin, Rockford, Peoria and East St. Louis to have the law extended for another five years.
- The Act provides tax incentives that are critical for several ongoing projects going on in Aurora's downtown area.

Police reform legislation

- DSI is working with Bukola Bello of Vision MAI and organizations including the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and other stakeholders to monitor any pending police reform legislation.

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

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report October 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act

- Kane County Board
 - Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) worked closely with Metro West Council of Governments to continue to lobby hard for reimbursement of COVID-19 expenses from the county's \$92.9 million in CARES Act funding.
 - Attended regular Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee (CAAC) meetings and other county board meetings 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 Aurora and other Kane County towns.
 - Aurora is eligible for up to \$7.6 million in funding from Kane County as a possible reimbursement for COVID expenses.
- Kane County Small business grants
 - Worked with the City of Aurora to urge improvements in the Kane County CARES Act small business grant program.
 - The County Board is going to set up another emergency small business grant program to help smaller companies suffering during the pandemic.
- Hesed House
 - Assisted Hesed House in lobbying for additional CARES Act funding for emergency needs.
 - Almost \$800,000 was approved.
- Will County CARES Act funding
 - Continued to push for the release of Will County CARES Act funding for Aurora.
 - Followed up with Will County officials about timing of the funding release.
- Restaurant restrictions
 - Worked with the Mayor's office to distribute a letter to the Governor's Office and other key stakeholders in state government about increased COVID restrictions that resulted in the suspension of in-person dining.
 - Of note, one of the issues raised was the uneven enforcement from County to County.

- Illinois Business Interruption Grants (BIG) program
 - Organized a conference call with Illinois Department of Commerce to plan an Aurora Webinar/community conversation to discuss the benefit of local businesses applying for the BIG grant.
 - Event is scheduled for Monday, November 16th at 12:00 p.m.

Fox Valley Mall

- Continued to lobby for state approval of state grant applications for the Fox Valley Mall redevelopment.
- Obtained letters of support for the project, including from Rep. Barbara Hernandez.
- Worked with the city on other financing options for mall repurposing.
- Set up a meeting with the Illinois Finance Authority to discuss additional potential funding sources.

Fire sprinkler regulations

- At the request of the Aurora Fire Department, worked with the State Fire Marshal on new regulations dealing with fire sprinkler inspectors.
- The Legislation to tighten up regulations will be considered in the Spring 2021 session of the General Assembly.

Police reform legislation

- DSI team worked with consultant Bukola Bello of Vision MAI on setting up meetings on police reform legislation.
- DSI is working with organizations including the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and other stakeholders.

Short-term rentals

- Working with the City of Aurora to monitor any state legislation on short-term rentals.
- City of Aurora committee is looking at the issue.

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INCORPORATED

City of Aurora Government Relations Activity Report, November 2020

Coronavirus/CARES Act

- Kane County Board
 - Aurora received a check for \$7.6 million for COVID expenses from the Kane County Treasurer.
 - The check came from the county's \$93 million in CARES Act funding.
 - Due to the hard work of Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) and Kane County's Aurora Commissioners, Kane County gave its municipalities the largest percentage of CARES Act money compared to the other Illinois counties that got money: Cook, Will, DuPage and Lake counties.
 - DSI attended regular Kane County CARES Act Allocation Committee meetings and other county board meetings 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.
 - This communication and representation had a significantly positive outcome on Aurora's ability to receive funding.
- Hesed House
 - Assisted Aurora with working to obtain additional CARES Act funding for Hesed House emergency needs.
 - Almost \$800,000 was approved, DSI is now working with Hesed House to get final disbursement.
- Business grants
 - Worked with the City of Aurora to advertise emergency business grants available from Kane County from the CARES Act funding.
- Paramount Theatre
 - The CARES Act Allocation Committee will make a special allocation to convention and events centers.
 - The application is due out in late November, and the Paramount Theatre will be eligible to receive funding.
 - DSI will continue to monitor and lobby on their behalf.

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Fox Valley Mall

- Continued to push for state approval of Rebuild Illinois grant application for the Fox Valley Mall redevelopment.
- Organized a call with the City of Aurora and the Illinois Finance Authority to discuss possible “green bond” financing for some of the mall’s improvements.
- Connected City of Aurora staff with a key Enterprise Zone consultant to explore the idea of a possible Enterprise Zone designation for the mall’s area.

River Edge Tax Credit

- Aurora is working with Rockford, Peoria and Elgin on the extension of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit 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.
- DSI is coordinating a meeting with all of cities to strategize.

Commission on the Status of Black Males

- Mayor Irvin was appointed to a key role on the state’s new Commission on the Status of Black Males.
- The commission is being chaired by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford will study the social conditions of black males, develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities, and make recommendations to improve the educational, social, economic, and employment opportunities of black males.

Illinois Housing Development Authority

- DSI is coordinating communication between the City of Aurora and the Illinois Housing Development Authority to discuss future projects.

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