

City of Aurora Activity Report January 2015

Legislation:

- House Bill 5485
 - o Minimum Manning
 - Legislation adds mandatory minimum manning as a subject of collective bargaining for fire departments.
 - Minimum manning standards could undermine the ability of the Fire Chief to appropriately manage and staff local fire departments based on individual community-needs.
 - The measure could cost communities throughout Illinois millions of dollars per year.
 - o The City of Aurora and Illinois Municipal League are opposed.
 - Mayors throughout the State of Illinois have asked for a veto by Governor Ouinn.
 - The legislation passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk awaiting action.
 - Governor Quinn signed the legislation into law prior to leaving office.

- House Bill 198

- o Electric vehicle parking rules (sponsored by Rep. Gabel)
- Prohibits the parking of non-electric vehicles in charging station spaces designated for electric vehicles.
- Allows any person or local authority owning or operating a parking facility to remove or cause to be removed any non-electric vehicle parked within a charging station space designated for use by an electric vehicle.
- o Imposes a minimum fine of \$75 on a person parking a non-electric vehicle in a space designated for electric vehicles.
- The bill also requires municipalities to display signs indicating the fine imposed for a violation.
- Legislation has been assigned to the Transportation Committee and a hearing has been scheduled.



- House Bill 245
 - o Change municipality law on contract approvals (sponsored by Rep. Zalewski)
 - o Bill seeks to increase the base amount for public improvement or maintenance of public property to \$50,000.
 - Currently, a municipality must enter into a contract by public bid or fourfifths council approval at \$20,000.
 - o HB would allow that following the approval of a contract by the council, the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid would increase, from \$20,000 to \$50,000.
 - The bill has been assigned to the Cities and Villages Committee and a hearing has been scheduled.
- House Bill 250
 - o Electronic Products Recycling (sponsored by Rep. Wehrli)
 - o Amends the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act.
 - Provides that, if manufacturers meet their recycling goals prior to the end of the year and recyclers no longer pick up CEDs and EEDs without charge, municipalities, townships, and other units of local government that are acting as collectors shall be allowed to collect a fee from consumers who drop off these items for recycling.
 - The legislation has been assigned to the Environment Committee for a hearing.

Government Relations Activities:

- River Edge Redevelopment Zone
 - City of Aurora will work with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend tax credits for downtown riverfront areas.
 - Tax credits scheduled to expire in 2015, legislation will be proposed this spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.
- Corrections/Police Legislation
 - o Chief Thomas has two items to submit to the General Assembly:
 - Reform of the prisoner release system
 - Legislation to increase Global Positional System (GPS) tracking of repeat offenders
 - o The legislation has been submitted to the legislative drafters for possible introduction in the General Assembly's spring session.



- State of the State Address on February 4, 2015
 - The following items announced by new Governor Rauner's turnaround team should be of interest to municipal governments:
 - Enact a two-year property tax freeze that can only be altered by voters through a local referendum.
 - Restructure the Motor Fuel Tax system
 - Impose limitations on the prevailing wage law and eliminate Project Labor Agreements.
 - Create Local Employee Empowerment Zones to allow local voters to decide questions concerning forced unionization and mandatory dues collection.
 - Empower local voters to control collective bargaining issues in their local governments and take more direct responsibility for their employees' benefits.
 - Pursue legislation to create municipal bankruptcy authority.
 - Pursue pension reform by placing all current state employees into Tier 2 and/or a defined contribution pension plan. Police and firefighters would receive special, separate consideration.
 - Pursue permanent pension relief through a constitutional amendment.
 - Launch a government consolidation and unfunded mandates taskforce.
- Local Government Distributive Fund
 - Governor Rauner will present his proposed budget plan for fiscal year 2016 on February 18, 2015, and he is likely to reveal whether he will propose cuts in Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) money to municipalities.
 - o Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) will closely monitor the budget plan release to identify if cuts are proposed.
- City wins \$400,000 grant for Phillips Park/Mastodon Island
 - The grant is awarded under the State of Illinois' Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program under the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).
 - o The grant will be used for improvements to the park and the island.
 - o DSI will follow up when all contracts have been finalized.



- State capital funding for elevator project
 - The City of Aurora will receive \$341,000 for elevator work for the Aurora Youth & Family Services Non-Profit Collaboration Center project from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).
 - o The funding came from leftover capital funds from the state's capital bonding program that was funded by video poker and other fees (no income tax money is being used).
 - o The funds are still in the process of being released.



City of Aurora Activity Report February 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone extend tax credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - The City of Aurora is working with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire, the legislation will be proposed during the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.
 - o The Bills have the support of historic preservation groups.
 - o A testimony-only hearing about the Senate version of the bill will be held on Wednesday, March 11 in the Senate Revenue Committee.

House Bill 3442

- Legislation expanding police opportunity to use GPS monitoring (sponsored by Rep. Chapa LaVia)
- Provides that as a condition of pretrial release, bail, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release for a robbery or burglary offense, the court, in cases of pretrial release and bail and the Prisoner Review Board in cases of parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release, may require the defendant to wear an approved monitoring device that has a Global Positioning System (GPS) for the duration of the defendant's pretrial release, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release.
- o Provides that the data obtained from the GPS device shall not be monitored in real time, but shall be available to law enforcement agencies in automated 24 hour reports.
- o Initiative of Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas
- o Not yet assigned to committee.



- House Bill 3230
 - o Prisoner release legislation (sponsored by Rep. Chapa LaVia)
 - O Provides that when ordering the early release of more than 50 prisoners during a one-month period, the Director of Corrections must consult with an Advisory Board and receive approval from the majority of the 11 members.
 - Provides that the Advisory Board must include one member representing the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, one member representing the Illinois State's Attorneys Association, and one member representing the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.
 - o Initiative of Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas
 - Not yet assigned to committee.

House Bill 1511

- Takes away pay for part-time members of state commissions (sponsored by Rep. Kifowit)
- o Provides that no salary or per diem shall be paid to a member of a State board or commission that meets part-time.
- o Legislation also defines "part-time".
- Provides that a member of a State board or commission may, however, be reimbursed for actual travel and other expenses as authorized by law.
- o Effective July 1, 2015.
- o Bill has not yet been assigned to committee

House Bill 3103

- Changes ticket broker rules (sponsored by Rep. Kifowit)
- o Imposes disclosure requirements and price limits on the resale of tickets.
- O Provides that a ticket broker or reseller must disclose the identity and contact information for the event, venue box office, or its licensed ticket agent and disclose that the ticket broker or reseller is not the event venue box office or its licensed ticket agent.
- o Requires the disclosure to be clear, conspicuous, and readily noticeable.
- o Initiative of Paramount Theater in Aurora
- Has not yet been assigned to committee.



- Senate Bill 1509

- Changes requirements for bidding on municipal contracts (sponsored by Sen. Sandoval)
- o Increases the base amount from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for public improvement or maintenance of public property at which a municipality must enter into a contract by public bid or four-fifths council approval.
- o If the contract is approved by council, increases the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- o Committee hearing scheduled this week.

Senate Bill 1380

- Liens can be affixed to real property of owners (sponsored by Sen. Koehler)
- O Provides that liens obtained for the removal of neglected weeds, grass, trees, bushes, garbage, debris, and graffiti, the costs of pest extermination, removal, securing and enclosing on abandoned residential property, and the cost of the demolition, repair, enclosure, or removal of dangerous and unsafe buildings or uncompleted and abandoned buildings shall also affix to all real property of the property owner or owners.
- o Further provides that the notice requirements apply to liens against all real property of the property owner.
- Bill scheduled for a committee hearing this week.

- Senate Bill 740

- o Requires enforcement of Fire Hydrant Act (sponsored by Sen. Holmes)
- O Provides that whoever fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Act, after receiving written notice of noncompliance or violation from a fire protection district or municipality in whose jurisdiction a fire hydrant is located, shall be responsible for all reasonable costs that the fire protection district or municipality incurs to correct the noncompliance, including attorney's fees and legal expenses incurred by the fire protection district or municipality in recovering the costs from the responsible party.
- o Scheduled for a committee hearing March 11, 2015.



- Senate Bill 816
 - Deletes ability to eliminate DuPage Water Commission (sponsored by Sen, Cullerton)
 - o Amends the Water Commission Act of 1985.
 - o Deletes a section allowing cessation of a water commission by annexation or consolidation, effective immediately.
 - o Scheduled for a committee hearing March 11, 2015.
- Senate Bill 26
 - Requires web posting of local meeting notices (sponsored by Sen. Morrison)
 - Requires all units of local government and school boards that maintain a
 website to publish any notices, agendas, records, and other information or
 material that is required to be published in a newspaper by law or court
 order to their website in addition to the newspaper.
 - Scheduled for a committee hearing March 11, 2015.
- House Bill 2648
 - o Changes municipal lien process (sponsored by Rep. Verschoore)
 - O Defines "compliance lien" and provides that if a compliance lien has been filed against a property, then those costs associated with the lien may be treated as an existing, judicially-approved special assessment, as though an assessment warrant had been issued.
 - o Legislation further provides that the municipality may collect the costs as a special assessment if it complies with applicable procedures.
 - Requires that the owner of record or persons interested in the property shall pay the costs incurred by the municipality for collecting the costs associated with the lien, effective immediately.
 - o Scheduled for a committee hearing on March 10, 2015.



- House Bill 2752

- Liens can be affixed to real property of owners (sponsored by Rep. Gordon-Booth)
- O Provides that liens obtained for the removal of neglected weeds, grass, trees, and bushes, pest extermination, removal of infected trees, garbage, debris, graffiti; and the costs of removal, securing, and enclosing on abandoned residential property shall also affix to any real property of the property owner.
- o Further provides that the notice requirements apply to liens against any real property of the property owner, effective immediately.
- Scheduled for a committee hearing on March 10, 2015.

House Bill 245

- Change municipality law on contract approvals (sponsored by Rep. Zalewski)
- o Increases the base amount from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for public improvement or maintenance of public property at which a municipality must enter into a contract by public bid or four-fifths council approval.
- o If the contract is approved by council, increases the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- o The bill has passed out of committee and will be considered by full House.

House Bill 198

- Electric vehicle parking rules (sponsored by Rep. Gabel)
- o Prohibits the parking of non-electric vehicles in charging station spaces designated for electric vehicles.
- Allows any person or local authority owning or operating a parking facility to remove or cause to be removed any non-electric vehicle parked within a charging station space designated for use by an electric vehicle.
- o Imposes a minimum fine of \$75 on a person parking a non-electric vehicle in a space designated for electric vehicles.
- Requires municipalities to display signs indicating the fine imposed for a violation
- The bill has passed out of committee and will be considered by full House.



- House Bill 250
 - o Electronic Products Recycling (sponsored by Rep. Wehrli)
 - o Amends the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act.
 - o Provides that, if manufacturers meet their recycling goals prior to the end of the year and recyclers no longer pick up CEDs and EEDs without charge, municipalities, townships, and other units of local government that are acting as collectors shall be allowed to collect a fee from consumers who drop off CEDs and EEDs for recycling.
 - o The legislation will be considered in committee on March 10, 2015.

Government Relations Activities:

- Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and property tax freeze
 - o Governor's proposed budget would slash 50 percent of funding for local governments through the Local Government Distributive Fund.
 - A Senate Appropriations Committee hearing to discuss the issue has been scheduled for March 9, 2015.
 - The Governor also proposed a property tax freeze, there is little chance that legislation will pass.



City of Aurora Activity Report March 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone extend tax credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - The City of Aurora is working with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire, the legislation will be proposed during the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.
 - o The Bills have the support of historic preservation groups.
 - A testimony-only hearing about the Senate version was held on Wednesday, March 11th in the Senate Revenue Committee.
 - o The bill will likely be part of an end-of-session agreement.

Senate Bill 1815

- Tap-on Water Fees (McCarter)
- The bill includes a schedule of water and sewer connection fees that would extend to all municipalities, including those that provide community water and wastewater services, is a one size fits all approach.
- The bill would remove the ability for municipalities to compute and charge a fair and equitable connection fee based on the actual cost incurred for each utility.
- The costs for water treatment and storage vary greatly due to size of the community, type and quality of water supply and the type and density of the buildings within the municipalities.
- The bill proposes to place the burden of providing water and sewer to new developments on the shoulders of the existing residents, forcing the existing residents to subsidize the cost of new development.
- Metro West Council of Governments opposes this legislation.
- The bill will be up for consideration in a Senate committee after April 14th.



House Bill 3103

- o Changes ticket broker rules (Kifowit)
- The bill proposes to impose disclosure requirements and price limits on the resale of tickets.
- Also provides that a ticket broker or reseller must disclose the identity and contact information for the event venue box office or its licensed ticket agent and disclose that the ticket broker or reseller is not the event venue box office or its licensed ticket agent.
- o Requires the disclosure to be clear, conspicuous, and readily noticeable.
- o Initiative of Paramount Theater in Aurora.
- The bill passed out of committee but still must be amended, so the outlook for passage is unclear.

- House Bill 245

- Change municipality law on contract approvals (Zalewski)
- o Increases the base amount from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for public improvement or maintenance of public property at which a municipality must enter into a contract by public bid or four-fifths council approval.
- o If the contract is approved by council, increases the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- The bill has passed out of the House and is now under consideration in the Senate.

- Senate Bill 1509

- o Changes requirements for bidding for municipal contracts (Sandoval)
- o Increases the base amount from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for public improvement or maintenance of public property at which a municipality must enter into a contract by public bid or four-fifths council approval.
- o If the contract is approved by council, increases the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- Bill will be considered in committee after April 14th.



- Senate Bill 1380

- o Liens can be affixed to real property of owners (Koehler)
- O Provides that liens obtained for the removal of neglected weeds, grass, trees, bushes, garbage, debris, and graffiti, the costs of pest extermination, removal, securing and enclosing on abandoned residential property, and the cost of the demolition, repair, enclosure, or removal of dangerous and unsafe buildings or uncompleted and abandoned buildings shall also affix to all real property of the property owner or owners.
- o Further provides that the notice requirements apply to liens against all real property of the property owner.
- Bill will be considered in committee after April 14th.

Senate Bill 740

- o Requires enforcement of Fire Hydrant Act (Holmes)
- O Provides that whoever fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Act, after receiving written notice of noncompliance or violation from a fire protection district or municipality in whose jurisdiction a fire hydrant is located, shall be responsible for all reasonable costs that the fire protection district or municipality incurs to correct the noncompliance, including attorney's fees and legal expenses incurred by the fire protection district or municipality in recovering the costs from the responsible party.
- Passed out of committee and ready for consideration in full Senate.

Senate Bill 816

- o Deletes ability to eliminate DuPage Water Commission (Cullerton)
- Amends the Water Commission Act of 1985.
- Deletes a section allowing cessation of a water commission by annexation or consolidation, effective immediately.
- Approved by State Senate 52-0 and now arrives in the House for consideration.



- Senate Bill 26

- o Requires Web posting of local meeting notices (Morrison)
- Amends the Open Meetings Act by re-codifying a section concerning internet posting requirements from the Local Records Act.
- Would require all units of local government and school boards that maintain a website to additionally publish notices, agendas, records, or other information or material that is required to be published in a newspaper by law or court order to their website.
- Passed out of State Senate and now moves to the House

House Bill 198

- o Electric vehicle parking rules (Gabel)
- o Prohibits the parking of non-electric vehicles in charging station spaces designated for electric vehicles.
- Allows any person or local authority owning or operating a parking facility to remove or cause to be removed any non-electric vehicle parked within a charging station space designated for use by an electric vehicle.
- o Imposes a minimum fine of \$75 on a person parking a non-electric vehicle in a space designated for electric vehicles.
- Requires municipalities to display signs indicating the fine imposed for a violation
- The bill has passed out of the House is under consideration now in the Senate.

House Bill 3442.

- Legislation expanding police opportunity to use GPS monitoring (Chapa LaVia)
- O Provides that as a condition of pretrial release, bail, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release for a robbery or burglary offense the court in cases of pretrial release and bail and the Prisoner Review Board in cases of parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release may require the defendant to wear an approved monitoring device that has a Global Positioning System (GPS) for the duration of the defendant's pretrial release, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or extended mandatory supervised release.



- Provides that the data obtained from the GPS device shall not be monitored in real time, but shall be available to law enforcement agencies in automated 24 hour reports.
- o Initiative of Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas
- o Bill will not be heard in committee but can be considered towards end of session by Criminal Justice Reform Commission.

- House Bill 3230

- o Prisoner release legislation (Chapa LaVia)
- Provides that when ordering an early release of more than 50 prisoners during a one-month period, the Director of Corrections must consult with the Advisory Board and receive approval from the majority of the 11 members.
- Provides that the Advisory Board must include one member representing the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, one member representing the Illinois State's Attorneys Association, and one member representing the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.
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House Bill 1511

- o Takes away pay for part-time members of state commissions (Kifowit)
- o Provides that no salary or per diem shall be paid to a member of a State board or commission that meets part-time.
- o Defines "part-time".
- o Provides that a member of a State board or commission may, however, be reimbursed for actual travel and other expenses as authorized by law.
- o Effective July 1, 2015.
- o Bill remains in Rules Committee so is not likely to be considered this year.



Government Relations Activities:

- Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and property tax freeze
 - Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 would slash 50 percent of funding for local governments through the Local Government Distributive Fund.
 - o Approved budget fix for fiscal year 2015 did not cut LGDF.
 - Special meeting of municipal contract lobbyists on April 16 to discuss LGDF protection.



City of Aurora Activity Report April 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone extend tax credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - The City of Aurora is working with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire, the legislation will be proposed during the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.
 - The Bills have the support of historic preservation groups.
 - A testimony-only hearing about the Senate version was held on Wednesday, March 11th in the Senate Revenue Committee.
 - o The bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement

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- o Requires the disclosure to be clear, conspicuous, and readily noticeable.
- o Initiative of Paramount Theater in Aurora.
- Passed both houses and now goes to the Governor.

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- o If the contract is approved by council, increases the base amount of expenses that must be taken by public bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- o The bill is posed for final action.



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- o Liens can be affixed to real property of owners (Koehler)
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- o Further provides that the notice requirements apply to liens against all real property of the property owner.
- Bill could still be considered.

- Senate Bill 740

- o Requires enforcement of Fire Hydrant Act (Holmes)
- O Provides that whoever fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Act, after receiving written notice of noncompliance or violation from a fire protection district or municipality in whose jurisdiction a fire hydrant is located, shall be responsible for all reasonable costs that the fire protection district or municipality incurs to correct the noncompliance, including attorney's fees and legal expenses incurred by the fire protection district or municipality in recovering the costs from the responsible party.
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 - o Initiative of Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas
 - o Bill is stalled but issue will come up later this year.
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- Defines "part-time".
- Provides that a member of a State board or commission may, however, be reimbursed for actual travel and other expenses as authorized by law.
- Would be effective July 1, 2015.
- o Bill is dead for the session.

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- The bill proposes to place the burden of providing water and sewer to new
 developments on the shoulders of the existing residents, forcing the
 existing residents to subsidize the cost of new development.
- o Metro West Council of Governments opposes this legislation.
- o Bill is dead for this session.

Senate Bill 26

- o Requires Web posting of local meeting notices(Morrison)
- Amends the Open Meetings Act by re-codifying a section concerning internet posting requirements from the Local Records Act.
- Would require all units of local government and school boards that maintain a website to additionally publish notices, agendas, records, or other information or material that is required to be published in a newspaper by law or court order to their website.
- o Bill is dead for the session.



Government Relations Activities:

- Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and property tax freeze
 - Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 would slash 50 percent of funding for local governments through the Local Government Distributive Fund.
 - The Governor is seeking a property tax freeze, including home rule communities.
 - Approved budget fix for fiscal year 2015 did not cut Local Government Distributive Funds, so the LGDF is unaffected for now.



City of Aurora Activity Report May 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 96
 - o Restructures Illinois' 911 emergency systems (Bradley/Sullivan)
 - o Proposes new funding and structures for 911 systems, consolidates outdated systems.
 - Aurora expressed concerns about the funding model, under the proposed legislation the city would be unable to establish an Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) 911 governing board system for funding.
 - o The legislation passed both houses overwhelmingly but a trailer bill is promised for this fall that addresses Aurora's concerns.
 - o Governor Rauner is likely to sign the bill.

Senate Bill 1304

- Body cameras/criminal justice reform (Raoul/Sims)
- The measure proposes to create a state fund for municipalities to pay for body cameras.
- The bill aims to improve the data collection and reporting of officer-involved and arrest-related deaths.
- It also proposes independent investigations of officer-related incidents as well as creates a database of officers dismissed due to misconduct.
- o Under the proposal, body cameras always would be on, but officers would have guidelines for when to record.
- Recordings would be kept for 90 days unless they have been flagged for any number of reasons.
- Flagged videos are kept for two years or until a court case related to the recordings has concluded.
- o The bill now moves to the Governor's desk.

Government Relations Activities:

- Property tax freeze
 - Legislators may authorize a property tax freeze as part of a final budget deal, no specifics have been provided.
 - o Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor.



- Capital and grant money
 - The administration may start releasing grant funds after the legislative leaders agree on a budget plan for fiscal year 2016.
 - The Senate Democrats are putting a capital bill together and Aurora has submitted requests for new funding.
 - Area legislators continue to lobby the governor to release funding for previously approved projects for Aurora.
- Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)
 - o No massive cuts expected in fiscal year 2016.
 - LGDF received only minor cuts in fiscal year 2015.
- Casino legislation
 - Legislation on gaming expansions has yet to be introduced.
 - News media reports say the legislation could add five new casinos, slots and table games at racetracks, meaning Arlington Park could end up with 5,000 gaming positions.
 - Aurora continues to oppose this massive expansion.



City of Aurora Activity Report June 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 316
 - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
 - o Senate President John Cullerton is proposing a property tax freeze bill.
 - o The bill proposes freezing all home rule municipalities' property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
 - o The property tax freeze issue could be considered before the end of the overtime General Assembly session.
- Senate Bill 96
 - o Legislation revamping state 911 system rules (Senator Sullivan)
 - o The bill provides additional funding for 911 systems, but seeks to consolidate systems.
 - o The bill was signed by the Governor, but Aurora is working on trailer legislation that will protect the city's 911 system from consolidation.
 - o If Aurora were to consolidate the 911 system, it is projected to cost the city a substantial sum of money and could have a negative impact on the existing system.
 - The state's 911 Task Force has endorsed language protecting Aurora's system; this legislation is slated for consideration between now and the General Assembly's fall veto session.
- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - O The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities (Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis) to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - The tax credits scheduled to expire and proposed bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled due to the lack of a state budget.

Government Relations Activities:

- Pension reform
 - Governor Rauner introduced a pension proposal that seeks to help alleviate the crisis with municipalities related to police and fire pensions.
 - o The future of the proposal is unclear.



- Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)
 - o Dan Shomon, Inc. (DSI) is still working to maintain LGDF funding for
 - o Proposed cuts to LGDF could have a negative impact on Aurora.
- State economic incentives
 - o State economic development incentive programs have been frozen.
 - O Senator Holmes requested information on the impact of a freeze to the City of Aurora.



City of Aurora Activity Report July 2015

Legislation:

- House Bill 372

- o Tap-on water fees (Hoffman)
- o HB372 was the only tap-on legislation this year; it is a study that will only impact townships.
- o There is currently concern is that this bill could later be expanded to include municipalities.
- There is support for an expanded bill from a number of Metro East legislators, due to a local issue of exorbitant tap-on fees charged by the St. Clair County township water system.
- o The bill passed both Houses and then goes to the Governor's desk.

- Senate Bill 316

- o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
- o The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
- o It also proposes to limit any increase in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
- o However, the overall property tax freeze issue could be considered before the end of the overtime General Assembly session.
- The Revenue Committee in the House is still considering the bill, so it could be part of a larger package in the overtime session.

- Senate Bill 96

- o Legislation revamping state 911 system rules (Senator Sullivan)
- o The bill seeks to provide additional funding for 911 systems, but requires consolidation.
- o The bill was signed by the Governor, but Aurora continues to work on trailer legislation to protect the city's 911 system from consolidation.
- The state's 911 Task Force has endorsed language protecting Aurora's system.
- o This legislation is supposed to be considered between now and the General Assembly's fall veto session.
- o Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor.



- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension
 - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - o The tax credits are scheduled to expire, however, the bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.

Government Relations Activities:

- Frozen grants
 - The City of Aurora will not be able to pursue the Illinois Department of Natural Resources grants for the Grand Army of the Republic or Phillips Park unless and until there is a state budget agreement.
- Pension reform
 - Governor Rauner introduced a pension proposal that seeks to alleviate financial pressure on municipalities as it relates to police and fire pensions.
 - o Unions are not in favor of this proposal.
- Local Government Distributive Fund
 - o DSI continues to work to maintain Aurora's Local Government Distributive Funds (LGDF).
 - The Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Kotowski has said LGDF will remain constant and will not be cut.
 - o The Governor had proposed a cut to LGDF that could have cost Aurora millions of dollars.
 - o Senate President Cullerton opposes such a cut.



City of Aurora Activity Report August 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 96

- Legislation revamping state 911 system rules (Senator Sullivan)
- o The bill provides additional funding for 911 systems but pushes consolidation of these systems
- Bill was signed by the Governor but Aurora is working on trailer legislation that will protect the City's 911 system from consolidation that would cost the city money and damage the existing system
- The state's 911 Task Force has endorsed language protecting Aurora's system and this legislation is supposed to be considered between now and the General Assembly's fall veto session.
- Lobbying team held a phone call with the Governor's office to seek their support and answer questions.

- House Bill 372

- Water tap-on fees (Hoffman)
- o HB372 was the only legislation this year regarding water tap-on fees.
- o The bill is a study and currently only affects township water systems, but could be expanded later to include municipalities.
- Metro East legislators are pushing to include this legislation due to exorbitant tap-on fees charged by a township water system in St. Clair County.
- o The bill passed both Houses and was signed by the Governor.

- Senate Bill 316

- o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
- o The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
- o It also proposes to limit any increase in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
- o The Revenue Committee in the House is still considering the bill, it could be part of a larger package in the overtime session.



- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone extend tax credit
 - The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas.
 - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016.
 - o The bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.

Government Relations Activities:

- Grant funds
 - The City of Aurora will not be able to pursue the Illinois Department of Natural Resources grants for the Grand Army of the Republic or Phillips Park until there is a state budget agreement.
 - Local legislators have pledged to make sure the grant funds are included in a final budget.



City of Aurora Activity Report September 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 316
 - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
 - o Governor Rauner and legislative leaders continue to debate the possibility of a property tax freeze.
 - o Senate President John Cullerton is in favor of a property tax freeze bill that could have a negative impact on suburban municipalities.
 - o The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
 - o The bill would also limit any increase in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent, or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
 - The bill is not likely to be approved; however, the property tax freeze issue could be considered before the end of the overtime General Assembly session.
 - o The Revenue Committee in the House is still considering the bill; it could be part of a larger package in the overtime session.
- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566 (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension
 - The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis – to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas to assist economic development efforts.
 - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2016.
 - The bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.

Government Relations Activities:

- Riverboat/Gaming funds
 - o The City of Aurora is due \$1.7 million from the State of Illinois in unpaid gaming revenue.
 - Other casino cities are planning to reach out to the Governor's office to discuss the release of these funds.
 - o Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor.



- Local Government Distributive Funds (LGDF)
 - o The proposed budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year calls for a 50 percent cut to LGDF.
 - However, the House and Senate passed budget bills that did not include any cuts to LGDF, however, the future of the fund remains unclear.
- Video gaming revenue
 - Similar to the distribution of casino revenue, several communities in the State of Illinois have not received revenue due from video gaming machines.
 - The Governor's Office has announced no funds will be distributed until a budget is in place.
- Distribution of state grants
 - o The City of Aurora continues to await the status of several state grants.
 - No grant distribution is expected until a budget has passed.



City of Aurora Activity Report October 2015

Legislation:

- House Bill 4305
 - Proposes to restore municipalities' funds for riverboat gambling, motor fuel taxes and 911 services.
 - o The legislation would restore millions of dollars for Aurora currently being held.
 - It passed the House of Representatives and Governor Rauner has indicated support.
 - The Senate could take this issue up before the end of the year, which could result in the release of the funds.
- Senate Bill 26
 - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
 - Proposed legislation would address a language change in the 911 consolidation bill that could impact Aurora.
 - o Local legislators support the amendment, negotiations are ongoing.
 - o Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) will continue to monitor.
- Senate Bill 316
 - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
 - o Governor Rauner and legislative leaders continue to debate the possibility of a property tax freeze.
 - o Senate President John Cullerton is in favor of a property tax freeze bill that could have a negative impact on suburban municipalities.
 - o The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property taxes in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
 - o The bill would also limit any increase in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent, or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
 - o The property tax freeze issue could be considered before the end of the overtime General Assembly session.



- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone tax credit extension (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - o The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities (Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis) to extend the historic tax credit for downtown riverfront areas to assist in economic development.
 - o The tax credits are currently scheduled to expire and the bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, but is currently stalled.

Government Relations Activities:

- State Grants
 - o The City of Aurora are awaiting the release and/or status of several state grants.
 - o The pending grants include the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Phillips Park and the Grand Army of the Republic.
 - Neither of these grants are expected to be released until the state budget is resolved.
 - o DSI continues to monitor and lobby on the city's behalf.



City of Aurora Activity Report November 2015

Legislation:

- Senate Bill 26
 - o 911 Cleanup bill (Bradley/Sullivan)
 - Proposed legislation would fix a technical mistake in the 911 consolidation legislation that would impact Aurora.
 - Legislative leaders and officials from Aurora and Naperville met in November and forged a compromise that would protect Aurora's current 911 system.
 - o The Governor's office is working with Dan Shomon Inc. (DSI) and Aurora legislators on final language.
- House Bill 4305
 - Restores municipalities' funds for riverboat gambling, motor fuel taxes and 911 services.
 - This legislation passed the House of Representatives.
 - o The Senate could take this issue up before the end of the year, which could result in the release of the funds.
- Senate Bill 316
 - o Property tax freeze legislation (President Cullerton)
 - Senate President John Cullerton has proposed a property tax freeze bill that could impact suburban municipalities.
 - The Governor appears to support a property tax freeze, and House Democrats have voted for fourteen (14) property tax freezes.
 - O The bill proposes freezing the city's (and all home rule municipalities') property tax in the 2016 and 2017 levy years.
 - The bill would also limit any increases in the 2018 levy year to the lesser of five percent or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
 - o The bill, if approved, could cost Aurora millions of dollars.
 - The issue could be considered before the end of the overtime General Assembly session.



- Senate Bill 1642 and House Bill 3566
 - o River Edge Redevelopment Zone extend tax credit (Stadelman/Gordon)
 - The City of Aurora continues to work with other River Edge cities –
 Rockford, Elgin, Peoria and East St. Louis in an effort to extend the historic tax credits for downtown riverfront areas.
 - The tax credits are currently still scheduled to expire, and though the bill could be part of an end-of-session agreement, it is currently stalled.
- Senate Bill 1547
 - Municipal tenant ordinances (Hutchinson/DeLuca)
 - Proposed legislation deals with municipal-tenant ordinances referencing domestic violence and the Americans With Disability Act.
 - The Shriver Center for Poverty Law is investigating local Illinois' governments with crime free or nuisance property ordinances, which often penalize landlords and tenants based on the number of police calls to the residence.
 - Aurora has not yet been contacted by the Shriver Center.

Government Relations Activities:

- Riverboat gambling/motor fuel tax/911 funds
 - The City of Aurora is owed over \$3 million from the State of Illinois in unpaid riverboat gambling funds.
 - Aurora, Joliet and Elgin passed resolutions that authorize the city to take the necessary actions to obtain the funding.
- State Grants
 - The City of Aurora continues to await the release of several state grants currently being held by the state.
 - o No grants are expected to be released until a state budget is passed.
 - o DSI continues to monitor and lobby for their release.