



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2007

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ Customer Service cards for each department are being designed and will soon be randomly mailed to homes throughout Cedar Rapids. Comments on the returned cards will be used for training purposes.
- ✓ The CRPD is to be commended for their recent response to terroristic threats at Taft Middle school. The stark contrast to this result and the Omaha shooting tragedy should not be lost. What is especially notable was that the response was based on CRPD actions taken years ago to develop and implement training for school officials, parents, students and the continued reinforcement of training. This was much more than a response to an incident. It was being prepared with a plan and continued attention by the entire Department. This all points to the reality that so much of what we do is work to avoid problems and tragedies. Also noteworthy is a recent letter to the editor which noted the actions by an officer assisting a motorist with a flat tire. This is not a unique activity for CRPD but it is gratifying to see public recognition. These actions demonstrate the wide range of efforts by the CRPD in making Cedar Rapids a better, safer community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Staff received 32 applications for FY08 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance and 4 applications for the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The estimated annual allocation to the City of Cedar Rapids is approximately \$2 million (CDBG and HOME combined); requests totaled nearly \$3 million. Beginning January 2008, staff will meet with the Grants & Programs Citizens' Advisory Committee to begin the budgeting process and make funding recommendations to the City Council. The FY08 program year begins July 1, 2008, with the budget and Annual Action Plan due to HUD in May. The City awaits completion of the Congressional appropriations process to determine actual budget authority.
- ✓ Smart Growth Scorecard Open House - The City will be hosting an open house on Thursday, December 13th from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Vet's Memorial Armory. The purpose of the meeting is to:
 - provide information on smart growth principles
 - present a draft Smart Growth Scorecard to be used in the development review process
 - receive public feedback regarding smart growth implementation

The open house marks the beginning of a community-wide discussion of smart growth concepts. It should be emphasized that the Smart Growth Scorecard was developed to raise awareness of these concepts and provide a common language. Simply stated, the scorecard is a mechanism to initiate discussion on smart growth. It is also important for the public to know the City will actively seek input from local developers and interested parties. Public participation in review of the City's current development regulations and procedures is critical to successfully incorporating smart growth principles. Many opportunities will be available for feedback.

FIRE / PUBLIC SAFETY CODE ENFORCEMENT

- ✓ A recent house fire at 2001 Park Ave. SE resulted in significant damage to the home. Code Enforcement officials have verified that the property owner had insurance and the insurance company has withheld the state-mandated \$10,000 demolition/debris clean-up reserve fund. Staff will continue to work with the property owner to mitigate the damage

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ✓ The City's Labor/Management Committee has been formed "to share information, discuss non-contractual work issues, build relationships and when appropriate, make recommendations." Members of the committee include Penny Alexander, Wayne Clymer, Glen Fox, Dave Bowser, Brad DeBrower, Heath Halverson, Craig Hanson, Roy Hesemann, Conni Huber, Mark Jones, John Ness, Rick Scofield, and Lola Shull. Lola Shull and Mark Jones have agreed to co-chair the committee. This is an important step as Labor and Management work together to make this City a great place to live and work.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ The City of Cedar Rapids has submitted their claim forms as part of the Microsoft – Iowa Settlement. This class action lawsuit was brought against Microsoft for violating anti-trust and unfair competition laws. This settlement applies to consumers who purchased certain Microsoft products between the dates of May 18, 1994 and June 30, 2006. The claims will be rewarded with cash vouchers that the City may use to purchase computer hardware or software products.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Lori Barkema and Kit Wong are researching various Iowa communities to inquire about their funding of building programs.
- ✓ During the Friends Book Fair event at Barnes and Noble December 2, customers were asked to fill out coupons designating a portion of that day's book sales for the library. Friends President Rochelle Holcomb reports the event generated \$800 from the event.
- ✓ Heat pump installation began last week in the technology learning center.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Lisa Miller, PGA Master Professional, has been named Manager of the Cedar Rapids Golf Division. Lisa is a 14-year member of the PGA of America, 13-year member of the adjunct faculty of the national PGA, a board member for the Iowa PGA and has served as Interim Golf Director for the past 6 months. In addition to her experience in the PGA, Miller has a Masters degree from U of I in Athletic Administration. Her position with the City golf division has been as the merchandising/marketing PGA Professional since 2001. Lisa is also the 2003 & 2005 Iowa PGA Merchandiser of the Year for public golf facilities and the 2006 Bill Strausbaugh award winner for the Iowa Section of the PGA.

POLICE

- ✓ On December 4th, Officer Glenn Kieler helped the Partnership for Safe Families provide 3 beds to a family of 8 children through the "Home for the Holidays" program. Slumberland donates bedroom sets for families in need within our community who do not have a bed otherwise. This was done after Officer Mark Asplund became aware of the family and helped them complete a request form for the beds.
- ✓ Recently, the Cedar Rapids Animal Shelter has encountered several dogs in the facility that have contracted parvo virus, a viral disease that is extremely contagious. Even with proper sanitation, parvo can remain dormant and subject to becoming active for many years. It impacts puppies and older dogs most severely. If detected early enough it is possible to treat the disease with limited success. The cost ranges from \$500-\$3000 for the treatments which is not feasible in a shelter setting with limited isolation area. Necessary action has been taken to reduce future contamination of other dogs.
- ✓ The CRPD is finishing an extensive training for all employees (sworn and non-sworn) on Community Policing and Problem Solving. The training was provided by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and was 8 hours in length. It was well received and very informative.
- ✓ Officer Rebecca Fort responded on a call that eventually led to information of a threat against Taft Middle School students and staff. Investigators Robert Collins, Dab Jabens, Jesse Moore and many more from the CRPD, assisted Officer Fort in preventing what could have resulted in a tragedy. The collaboration between the CRPD and the CR Community School District was exceptional.
- ✓ Lts. Jerry Potter and Chuck Mincks; Investigators Nick Nolte, Denny Randall, Craig Vonsprecken, Michelle Smothers, Matt Denlinger, Dale Moyle and Nate Julifs attended an 8 hour training on "Combating Modern Day Slavery in Iowa" at Kirkwood Community College. The US Attorney's Office and the Northern Iowa Human Trafficking Response Team sponsored the free training.

- ✓ Capt. Steve O'Konek, Capt. Mellgren and Lt. Jeff Hembera attended a 4-hour senior officials workshop training at the EOC that focused on school emergencies. The training was provided by Region 6 Homeland Security and was broadcast on the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Bidding of the new Edgewood Road SW bridge over the Crandic Railroad, originally scheduled for May 2008, has been temporarily suspended. Crandic currently has one track crossing Edgewood Road and approved a design concept in summer 2006 for a bridge to accommodate a second track. In light of economic development, including ADM's new ethanol plant, Crandic recently asked the City to stop the project bidding, redesign, and fund a longer bridge to accommodate a future third track. This issue could add up to \$350,000 in project costs and introduce a year's delay in opening of the Edgewood Road viaduct. Public Works staff is currently negotiating with Crandic, and hopes to bring contracts with Crandic and the designer before City Council by February, so the project can re-start. To mitigate increased costs and delays, city staff is proceeding with plans for a May 2008 bid letting on just the bridge approaches, detour road and utilities crossing the railroad.
- ✓ On December 7 Jim Prosser and Ken DeKeyser had a teleconference with staff of Senator Harkin's office to discuss the Cedar River levees and proposed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revisions to the 100-year floodplains as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps near Downtown and the Time Check areas. The City has requested Senator Harkin's staff to assist with the following:
 - Delay the effective date of the revised floodplain maps until completion of the Corps of Engineers Time Check Levee study and possibly improvements to the Cedar River levees
 - Research how other Iowa cities, such as Des Moines and Waterloo, are handling similar concerns.
 - Locate funding sources for future levee improvements.FEMA is conducting a County-wide revision to the flood maps. They have asked the City to verify that its Cedar River levees meet FEMA requirements to continue being shown as providing flood protection on the maps. The levees do not meet FEMA requirements for a minimum three feet of freeboard, or depth between the top of levee and 100-year water surface elevation. This requirement became effective after the original Cedar River flood maps were published in 1982. The revised mapping would include an additional 309 parcels in the 100-year floodplain. Many of these property owners will have to purchase flood insurance as required by their lending institutions. Preliminary revised flood maps are anticipated in Fall 2008 and final maps in Spring 2009.

The Corps of Engineers will be conducting a study of the Cedar River levees anticipated to start in 2008. It will include analysis and preliminary design to improve the existing levees to current requirements and extend flood protection north to cover more of the Time Check area and south toward Czech Village.
- ✓ It has been an active start to the 2007-2008 snow and ice control program. PW Maintenance has already used over 1,200 tons of salt and sand on the roads. Brine pretreatment is used on bridges and some hills as a proactive measure. The level of service is to treat the main arterial roads and loop with salt. A salt and sand mix is used on residential roads and on main roads when supplies start to become low. Complete plows are done between 2 to 4 inches depending on pavement and weather conditions. There is not a bare pavement level of service.
- ✓ An occupant or owner has 48 hours after snow has fallen or ice has formed to remove the snow and ice. When it is not practicable because precipitation is frozen to the sidewalk, the owner or occupant shall spread some suitable material upon the walkway to prevent the surface from being slippery.
- ✓ The loose leaf program is complete. Public Works crews picked up over 3,100 tons. The yard waste container program goes year round for additional leaves. The kraft bag program is available until December 28th. The bag program also runs the first three weeks of April.

UPDATES

Clean-Up Activities Pending on the Iowa Iron and Iowa Steel Sites

The brownfields clean-up activities on the former Iowa Iron and Iowa Steel sites have been suspended for over a year. The delay results from a dispute between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over administrative responsibilities. Federal and State participating agencies created a draft MOA related to this dispute. The MOA identifies the environmental roles and responsibilities of all parties regarding the clean-up of the Iowa Iron and Iowa Steel sites. It specifically acknowledges the potential for archeological finds and requires the City conduct mitigation activities in an appropriate manner to avoid unnecessary negative impacts to the properties. This MOA will require execution by the City.

OSADA

Staff continues work on the OSADA draft Development Agreement. Pending input from bond counsel related to the terms, staff may be able to provide Point Builders with a draft by the end of the week. Tentatively, City Council may see this item again at the January 9, 2008 Regular Meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

*(Not all meetings are noted. The calendar is **not** an official posting.)*

Monday, December 10	6:30pm	Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood meeting, (<i>St. Wenceslaus Church Gym Building, 1224-5th St SE</i>)
Tuesday, December 11	4:30pm 7:00pm	Budget Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Paul Engel Center, 1600 4th Avenue SE</i>)
Wednesday, December 12	6:00pm	Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, December 13	5:00pm	Smart Growth Open House, (<i>Vet's Memorial Armory</i>)
Friday, December 14	8:00am	Leadership Conference, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Saturday, December 15	8:00am	Leadership Conference, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)