

**CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES
FEBRUARY 27, 2012 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS
AS OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012 AT 12:09 PM**

Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 6E: Consent Agenda –“Renewal of an Agreement with Starnet Technologies, Inc. for Preventive Maintenance and Support Service of the Water Department’s Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System”

Question/Comment: “The contract is for 25 days and 10 hours, basically meaning an on-site visit every other week for maintenance. That seems like a high frequency, although I understand this system is old. If there are fewer visits and phone consultations needed, does the price come down accordingly?”

Staff Response: This contract is an increase over previous years because we have found that our preventive maintenance hours have been used up quicker over the last few years. Most of this is due to the conversion from the type of equipment (Bristol Babcock Remote Terminal Units or RTU’s) that currently makes up the majority of our SCADA system to newer and readily available technology (Programmable Logic Controllers or PLC’s). Although Staff is not currently making a whole-sale change to the PLC’s, when an RTU fails, we must look at alternatives other than the RTU’s because they are no longer manufactured. This means a simple fix may take several days to correct because we must complete hardware changes (rewiring, new power supply, etc.) in addition to the reprogramming of the PLC with the logic from the RTU. Ultimately, what Staff is finding is that most visits now for support services are not a single day but several days in a row which uses up contract hours that much quicker. If there are fewer visits or telephone support, the City only pays for what we use. Any leftover hours can be carried forward to be used at a future time.

Alderman: “Bernie” Anderson

Item 6H: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bid for Front of House Digital Sound Control System at Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA)”

Question/Comment: “I believe we need to recognize this budget is not supporting the operations currently. Though I support the purchase of the sound board; please include budget status for this accounting year as we should on all requests. It recommended not to only state positive or negative balance.”

Staff Response: On April 30, 2011, the BCPA had an audited fund balance of \$1,061,074. Approximately \$966,003 of this fund balance was restricted for the planning and construction of the Creativity Center. This left an unrestricted fund balance of \$95,071 to support operations. The fund balance for operations in FY2012 is projected more than likely to go into the red by the end of the fiscal year.

Alderman: Jim Fruin

Item 6K: Consent Agenda –“Text Amendment to Chapter 17, Section 92 of the Bloomington Code Relating to Emergency Medical Services”

Question/Comment: “While reading Agenda Item 6K, it made me think of an unrelated question/comment following an observation last night. I pulled into the Qdoba parking lot on Veterans next to Biaggi’s. While there, I noticed a Rescue vehicle in front of Biaggi’s, which I *assume* was there for medical needs inside the restaurant. In addition, there was a Chase SUV vehicle outside the front door as well as a Fire Truck in the side/back parking lot. I don’t have any specifics, but it’s simply the observation that caught my attention. To me, and others that have made comments to me, they question the frequency in which we send our larger Fire Trucks to offer further Paramedic support. I completely understand the interest for Fire Trucks to provide protection for potentially dangerous traffic concerns, but at times, it appears that Fire Trucks aiding Rescue Squad runs presents an image issue that challenges the public’s observation. And, with Fire Trucks in tight parking lots of Restaurants, it could impact their availability to actual Fire Calls. I know we have talked about this in the past, but it’s simply a continuing public observation that we have Fire Trucks showing up at medical related service calls. I have zero awareness of appropriate response procedures nor do I want to micro-managing the situation. I don’t

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necessarily need a written response, unless you choose to do so, and if verbal conversation is preferred that works for me as well.”

Staff Response: Responses of this level are not unusual for us to have every day. I will try to explain how we respond to medical emergencies in general. Keep in mind that any information on exact issues that may have occurred on this particular call would be subject to HIPPA so I need to be careful on providing specific information. The general information was an unresponsive (unconscious) male in his late 80's. The ambulance that covers this response area was already on another call for service. We dispatch the closest fire apparatus to calls for EMS if the ambulance that is responsible for the area is out. This gets trained EMS personnel on scene quicker to begin appropriate medical care. This call was a category Delta, which in the dispatch protocols is a critical emergency call. The closest fire apparatus was dispatched as well as the ALS chase vehicle to support the severity of the call.

It is important to remember that medical emergencies require quick response actions. The tasks that need to be performed based on the call type and other pertinent information received by dispatch may warrant additional resources. These decisions are made by crews in the field to ensure the best possible outcome for the patient. All our fire apparatus are Basic Life Support equipped vehicles (they carry the same medical equipment as our ambulances used to carry before we went to the paramedic level) and are designed to respond to medical emergencies.

I would like to further explain that our dispatching system is based upon caller information. Most times these calls are from people with little knowledge of the actual problem and of the resources necessary for handling most emergencies (including fire, hazardous conditions and medical emergencies). The question of "is the patient breathing?" with a response of "no" or "I don't know" (which is quite common) will get a larger response based on a worst case scenario. This is true with structure fire calls as well. We send a full response to all structure fire calls. Once we are on scene, we determine the exact problem and then adjust accordingly. In retrospect, most of these calls could be handled with a single engine company, but a full response is dispatched for the safety and protection of the public in addition to the safety of our firefighters (if in fact faced with a true fire upon their arrival).

If on the other hand, we were to dispatch a single engine, only to have them arrive on scene of a true structure fire with people trapped, they would be unable to adequately deal with the situation until other units arrived. This delay in response would most certainly adversely affect the outcome in these situations. The same can be said for medical emergencies. Not only is it extremely difficult for 2 individuals to assess, get vital signs, diagnose and evaluate an individual's condition, determine a treatment course, assemble necessary treatment equipment/supplies, initiate IV and/or drug therapy, observe circulation through cardiac monitoring, initiate respiratory therapy (including oxygen delivery and if necessary intubation), package, load and transfer a patient and do so in a timely fashion with no diminishment of care, but it is not a recommended standard of care either.

In public safety provision it is an accepted practice to dispatch units considering a "worst case" scenario and then adjust accordingly. This is for the safety and well-being of both the general public (those in need) and for the responders. Again, we work with the information given by public calls into the dispatch center to the best of our ability. We also have initiated "quick dispatch" protocols in our operation. Using quick dispatch, the 911 operator gathers minimal critical information to determine a overall call type (breathing difficulty, cardiac issue, structure fire, vehicle accident with entrapment, etc.) and gets our units notified within a short period (less than 60 seconds) to start them on their way. This has been implemented to decrease response times and get units on scene quickly. Using this protocol, call status is updated while units are enroute, and depending on the response time, they may be on scene before the update which may downgrade the call severity is received. Keep in mind that we have a set number of

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personnel and staffed vehicles on shift each day, so there is no increase in personnel cost to have them respond. If the decision-making is based on safety of both the public and of our personnel, then that would be appropriate in my opinion. Under a scenario of minimal response until an emergency is verified, we could conceivably send a single occupant vehicle (Shift Commander, paramedics chase vehicle) to a reported structure fire and have him arrive and confirm an event and then request dispatch of suppression units. In the event of a true structure fire cardiac arrest or other time critical response, this system would be disastrous for those involved.

I hope this gives you the necessary information to respond to members of the public who ask how we determine what resources we send in calls for service. Please let me know if you have any further questions or if I can be of assistance on this or another matter.

Alderman: “Rob” Fazzini

Item 6L: Consent Agenda –“Intergovernmental Agreement between the City, County of McLean and Town of Normal Regulating Use of Police Range Facility”

Question/Comment: “What has caused our inability to make contractual promised repairs?”

Staff Response: In our contract we have included an update that we and others who use our range have seen as fairly important. Staff has been repaving the area between the outside shooting facility and the range targets (which is approximately 30 yards by 40 yards) for the last three years. Obviously, because of budget restrictions and cut backs, this was one of the first items to be cut. Staff issued a bid about three years ago to replace the roof on our existing indoor range and another out building including a living facility and a training facility. The cost was approximately \$60,000. This also was not completed because of budget reductions. The building is uninhabitable for training or living at this point because of water damage.

This year Staff is looking at the entire range utilizing a student internship and one staff sergeants to complete a total study of the range and property conditions. The study will include what it will take to bring the range back to full use. To bring it back to full use the repairs needed include repairs to all or some of the existing structures, demolition of all or some of the existing structures, paving or black topping the outdoor firing range, replacing furnaces and the damaged roof in the indoor range, and potential sale of the property (at least a valid property assessment, and the cost and locations available to construct a new range facility indoors within the City of Bloomington).

Once this assessment has been completed, staff will share it with the City Manager the report and recommendations for the future. Staff simply does not want to put any more money into the facility until a definite direction is determined, including funds. The outdoor facility is in adequate shape to allow the agencies to continue qualifying for the time being. McLean County Officials and Town of Normal Officials are aware of the study taking place.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6L: Consent Agenda –“Intergovernmental Agreement between the city, county of McLean and town of normal regulating use of police range facility”

Question: “Is this the same facility that has been described as being in a state of disrepair? If so, I am glad we are doing a feasibility study and I look forward to reviewing options for making the best choice possible for the city. What is the actual maintenance cost?”

Staff response: To bring the facility and the buildings on it to full usability there will need to be many repairs. Those estimates will be provided once the assessment is completed. The study will not provided

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exact figures, but quality estimates. In the past year the range budget was moved into the Police Operating Budget, which made it more difficult to allocate routine maintenance costs.

Here are examples of recent routine maintenance costs:

2009/2010

Mowing - \$4,925.43

Propane - \$1,180.04

Porta - Potty - \$630.00

Furnance repair - \$ 2,026.20

Total - \$ 8,761.67

2010/2011

Mowing - \$3,442.01

Propane - \$1,268.84

Porta Potty - \$ \$1,050.

Furnaces Preventative - \$776.00

Rock for driveway - \$760.00

Repairs to target system - \$720.76

Total - \$ 8,017.61

Alderman: “Rob” Fazzini

Item 6M: Consent Agenda- “Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding the Clinton Landfill Permit Application to Accept Polychlorinated Biphenyls”

Question/Comment: “Why is the coming back now rather than at the March 12, 2012 Meeting as directed by Council to Staff in the February 13, 2012 Work Session? Also, my recollection was that Staff was leaning toward not participating unless certain conditions were met, but this recommendation is the opposite!”

Staff Response: It was the impression of Staff that Council wished to have the item placed on the next Council Agenda with 5 members showing agreement that they would like to see the City move forward with the joint the Intergovernmental Agreement. The City Manager did recommend waiting to see what the USEPA did before joining the agreement citing that if the USEPA is to deny a permit to the landfill, there would be no need for the consortium. The City Manager did state during remarks that the item would be brought back to the City Council on March 12, 2012 and be placed under Regular Agenda. Staff would recommend that the item be discussed this evening and Staff direction be given on going forward.

Alderman: “Bernie” Anderson

Item 6M: Consent Agenda –“Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the Clinton Landfill Permit Application to Accept Polychlorinated Biphenyls”

Question/Comment: “Why are able to bring this back when we told the public it would be considered on March 13th? Just some clarification!”

Staff response: See response above.

Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 6M: Consent Agenda- “Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the Clinton landfill permit application to accept polychlorinated biphenyls”

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Question/Comment: “Please confirm! If the Phase 2 legal action is required by virtue of the landfill moving ahead, are we obligated to take part because we funded phase 1? Do we have a potential funding source identified for the \$49,500?”

Staff Response: It is staff’s interpretation of the language of the agreement that the City would be responsible for Phase II funding if a permit is issued by the U.S. EPA. The latest cost sharing analysis provided by the consortium projects the City’s required contribution to Phase II as \$11,484.96 (with a not to exceed collective amount of \$49,500 for the participating members). If further litigation should be necessary (past the \$49,500) the City will have the option of opting out of additional financial support.

The City does have sufficient funding available for the agreement as outlined in the council memo under Financial Impact. Council expressed an interest in joining the Agreement and moving forward. The Phase I cost to the City of Bloomington is \$3,190.27 and Phase II is \$11,484.96. These numbers are slightly more than the numbers presented in the work session because the City of Champaign only recently updated their cost share projections. Previous projections for Phase I for the City of Bloomington was \$2,900 and Phase II was \$10,441.

Alderman: Jim Fruin

Item 6M: Consent Agenda –“Intergovernmental agreement regarding the Clinton landfill permit application to accept polychlorinated biphenyls”

Question/Comment: “My understanding and recollection from the February 13, 2012 work Session, was that while contrary to the City Staff recommendation to not proceed with any funding, 5 Council Members expressed support to proceed with Intergovernmental cooperation (4 Members were silent) to fund the initial shared cost without any obligation for further funding decisions. this gave Staff the direction to place it on the agenda with a revised recommendation to provide for initial funding. Staff can clarify the provided figures of \$3.190 and \$11,484 which pertain to the COB, as part of the larger shared costs figures from all municipalities combined.”

Staff Response: That is correct.

Alderman: Mboka Mwwilambwe

Item 6N: Consent Agenda –“Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer Petition for Lot 10, Block 28 in Camp Potawatomic from Edward Oehler Trust, Petitioner, to John and Lisa Larkin, Purchasers”

Question/Comment: “What is the total number of leases at the lake? Are we at full capacity at all times?”

Staff Response: There are 268 leased lots at Lake Bloomington. Essentially, each of these lots has a residence on it (there are a few exceptions) and thus every lot will receive a lot lease bill each year. The only way the City would not be in full capacity is if someone removed a residence from a leased lot and elected to no longer lease the lot from the City.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7A: public hearing –“Approval and authorization to submit the community development block grant (CDBG) program year 2012-2013 application and action plan”

Question/Comment: “Was there some reason that alternative that we discussed which i sent you via email on February 17, 2012 was not included in this recommendation as one example of an alternative”?

Staff Response: Attached is Alderman Fazzini’s February 17, 2012 email to staff under Background; paragraph three, staff stated that over the next 12 to 24 months they would work with agencies. Staff did not include individual names of foundations and developers that might be interested in being a partner in the project, because staff has not been able to confirm if HUD would allow leasing and/or clients paying of rent as referred to in your email. Staff will work to include as many interested entities in the collaboration over the next 12 to 24 months.

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Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 7A: Public Hearing- “approval and authorization to submit the community development block grant (CDBG) Program Year 2012-2013 Application and Action Plan”

Question/Comment: “Labyrinth Project”: There have been several collaborations proposed that show promise. Thank you to community development and the other partners who support labyrinth in seeking a good workable approach to this project over the next year.”

Staff Response: Staff will continue to work with the co-founders of the Labyrinth Project, other social agencies/organizations that would include developers and foundations who mission is to provide housing, over the next 12 to 24 months.

Alderwoman: Judith Stearns

Item 7A: Public Hearing: “Approval and Authorization to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2012-2013 Application and Action Plan”

Question/Comment: “How will the decision be made which sidewalks to fund? I would suggest that we do as many sidewalk repairs as possible, instead of one or two sidewalks. I still have many I have submitted before—even trip hazards that have not been repaired. New sidewalks are great, but often it is a matter of individual areas creating most of the problem. Please explain the process for making this decision.

Staff Response: Staff chose sidewalks within the low/moderate income boundaries (targeted area, which was provided in your council packets). Staff from Community Development and Engineering have identified blocks of sidewalks that need to be replaced within our targeted area. Staff also looked at sidewalks that were turned in through citizen complaints, sidewalks rating a 1 or 2 (1 being the worst) and/or claims filed with Alternative Service Concepts (ASC is the City’s Third Party Administrator). A list of locations is attached to this report.

Question/Comment: Also on the CDBG loans for home repairs, what is the income cut off? Can we decrease the income limit below \$40,000? Can we specify what applications cannot be immediate family members of a city staff member or elected official?

Staff Response: Attached are the CDBG income guidelines. Currently, qualified applications must be at or below 80% for the area median income. Certainly the income could be more restrictive, but we need to be justified to HUD when there is a demonstrated need for all of these households within our community at or below 80%. As long as applicants meet our income guidelines, are owner/occupant of their home, and the home is located within the City of Bloomington Corporate Limits-they may qualify, pending additional review. If there are any applicants that may present a conflict of interest concern, staff follows HUD’s guidelines for disclosure and review.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 8A: Regular Agenda –“Amendment to Contract with Alternative Service Solutions, Inc., (ASC) Third Party Administrator”

Questions/Comment: “The packet from ASC refer to the position as “Safety Coordinator” while our memo refers to “Safety Director”. Is there a difference or is it just semantics?”

Staff Responses: Yes, it’s semantics.

Question/Comment: Can you give us an idea of the typical workflow for a case with the involvement of this position?

Staff Response: Safety director will be responsible for overall safety in the city, from developing and training on safest practices, to inspections. Their involvement in “cases” is primarily in the front end, via accident investigation and subsequent reports. The reports will be used by the claims adjuster and defense attorney. On Workers compensation cases, the Safety Director may be able to assist in finding ways for supervisors to accommodate light duty for a quicker return to work of injured employees.

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Question/Comment: Will this position be solely dedicated to Bloomington cases or will they be expected to handle other cases concurrently?

Staff Response: As reported in the Council Memo, the Safety Director will be a Dedicated ASC employees assigned to only work for the city.

Question/Comment: Expected savings range from \$225,000 to \$350,000 (after Safety Coordinator expense), correct?

Staff Response: Correct.

Question/Comment: What is the expected annual savings altogether? It is not exactly clear from the memo.

Staff Response: Expected annual savings is \$350,000-\$500,000 before costs.

Alderwoman: Judith Stearns

Item 8A: Regular Agenda – “Amend contract with Alternative Service Concepts (ASC), third party administrator.”

Question/Comment: “I understand that the safety officer would be an ASC employee or contractor? Please discuss how specifically this position would be accountable for reducing costs? How could the actual dollar value be determined at the end of a specified time? Finally, what are we currently doing to increase safety and investigate accidents? Will that be rolled into this new position, and is there some cost reduction in discontinuing any of our current activities?”

Staff Response: The Safety Director will be an employee of ASC and housed in their dedicated office in Bloomington. The Safety director will be responsible for the overall safety in the city from developing and training on safety practices to inspection. Their involvement in cases is primarily in the front end, via accident investigation and subsequent reports. The reports will be used by the claims adjuster and defense attorney. The safety director may be able to assist in finding ways for supervisors to accommodate light duty for quicker return to work of injured employees for Worker’s Compensation cases. Reports can be generated that would show the amount of time an employee was off on a work injury to the time they are back on the job and that would give you a direct correlation between time off and back on the job. Currently each supervisor is responsible for investigating property casualty and worker’s injuries. Yes, the Safety Director will take over the accident investigations that supervisors are now doing in real time. The cost savings will be not having supervisors take time from their day to day duties to investigate complaints, report writing, etc. Human Resources is making sure that all employees are receiving training in the mandated OSHA areas, i.e. blood pathogen, lock out tag out, etc.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8B: Regular Agenda –“Early retirement of \$1.2 Million of Variable Bond Debt”

Question/Comment: “Why is there no mention of the interest rate difference from the variable rate currently to the fixed rate proposed as was done in 8c? Shouldn’t the word “fess” be “fees” in line seven under financial impact? Am I correct in reading that the city will save annual on direct and direct cost on the following:

1. \$15,000 to \$20,000 on various direct cost?
2. \$34,476 because of not having to contribute to the municipal portion of real property tax?
3. \$144,382 because of not having to contribute to the state sales tax?

Staff Response: The city’s variable rate program has been very successful with the issuance of the 2004 Variable Bonds. Mesirrow Financial, City Bond Financial Advisor, has estimated the City’s decision to issue Variable Rate Bonds rather than Fixed Rate Bonds has incurred interest rate cost savings of approximately \$2.0 million. This item seeks to retire the TIF Bonds and further save the matching dollars contributed by the General Fund. Your assumptions on the direct (remarketing and liquidity fees) and indirect costs are accurate. “Fess” should be “Fees.”

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8D: Regular agenda –“general obligation debt policy”

Question/Comment: “Shouldn’t the “A” in line four of the first paragraph be “triple A”? Shouldn’t this debt service policy also include a section entitled objectives as on page 1042 of the City of Bloomington fiscal year 2012 budget referring to safety, liquidity and total return? This section should also include a paragraph describing call risk by describing paying how much above par is acceptable le upon purchase of a bond. shouldn’t there be a section entitled prudence as on page 1043 of the City of Bloomington fiscal year 2012 budget/ these questions might be best addressed by Tim Ervin as we discussed this in my meeting with David hales and Tim to review the 2012 budget in page by page detail.”

Staff Response: The highest rating a city can receive under Moody’s is AAA. The two sections can be incorporated into the policy at the Council’s recommendation.

Additional Council Comments

Councilman: Jim Fruin

Comment: “Thanks to other colleagues who choose to share questions over the weekend. it helps awareness as well all learn from each other. Reading City Staff Q&A responses at 5:00 pm can offer some last minute challenges for all of us. Regards.”

Prepared by:
Barbara J. Adkins
Deputy City Manager

To: David Hales, Barb Adkins
From: Robert B. Fazzini
Date: 02/17/2012 02:57PM
Cc: Karen Schmidt
Subject: Female Half Way House

Since our discussion at city council on Monday, I have gathered public comments on the desirability of spending \$300,000 for a house to accommodate three people every 18 months. The consistent response was that this was too much money to spend on this project. No one was against trying to help rehabilitate females trying to reconnect with society, but the price tag was simply too high. I am sending a copy of this email to Karen Schmidt per your request.

In an effort to avoid simply voting NO on the proposal, I contacted two other people who have experience in rental property (I also have experience personally in owning rental property as well as considerable experience in lending money to people to purchase rental property). My reason for contacting John Tornquist and Jerry Gilbert was to ascertain if they felt leasing property to the City of Bloomington after purchasing the property for \$300,000 would be a feasible arrangement. Both felt that this would need to be considered a single purpose building because a \$300,000 house in this neighborhood was not a reasonable investment if the concept did not work and the house was no longer rented by the city. Therefore, the risk of project failure needed to be factored into the investment desirability. On the other hand, both agreed that a new building with a five year lease to the City of Bloomington did have appeal if the numbers made sense. John Tornquist would even be interested in discussing how his Tornquist Family Foundation might get involved.

Another factor to consider is why Town of Normal and County of McLean should be involved financially because residents and those using the building for help will be from City of Bloomington, Town of Normal and elsewhere in the county. It seems to me that this topic should be pulled from the next city council agenda to give us adequate time to investigate how to accomplish developing some alternative to a \$300,000 up front cost. Below is one such alternative to be investigated. The analysis is what I used as a banker whenever I discussed with a customer the purchase of property to rent.

Price: \$300,000 with a 20% down payment leaving a loan of \$240,000 which financed at 6.0% amortized over 20 years would have a monthly principal and interest payment of \$1,720.

Monthly rent from City of Bloomington: \$3,000

Typical operating expenses at 30%: **-\$900**

Operating income before debt service: \$2,100

Debt service as described above: **-\$1,720**

Net income after debt service: \$380

Debt service coverage: 1.22x

Note: If operating expenses were lower because of new building and certain upkeep items being the responsibility of the City of Bloomington, then the net income would be higher as would the debt service coverage. Same holds true for any loan rate below 6.0%, which in today's market is certainly

possible. The higher the income and debt service coverage, the more appealing this arrangement would be to a potential investor to own and lease the building.

Thank you for considering this option of a \$36,000 annual rent expense compared to a \$300,000 initial expense up front. It is easy to just vote NO. The fact is that this is a good concept, but the cost option offered was simply too high. That is why I took the next step of finding an alternative that did not have such a high initial cost. By the way, the lease should have in it an option to purchase the property at a set amount for each year after an initial three year period. This is not an unusual option in a lease. Rob

Robert B. Fazzini

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mary

Date: Sun, Feb 26, 2012 at 12:36 PM

Subject: Update and Urgent Plea for Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women

To: Karen Schmidt

Karen,

Labyrinth decided to request the council give additional consideration to this project. Feli sent out the e-mail below to our supporters last night that we had developed. In order to partner with Habitat we have to have a substantial portion of the funds already. We cannot expect a church or group of community groups to be able to raise the entire amount it would take to build this 5 unit building. Sharon has said that when the house at 604 is demolished this spring they will install the infrastructure as they would for a Habitat build and will hold the lot for Labyrinth. We have been donated all the wood material needed but estimate that with volunteer labor it will still cost about \$140-180,000 to build. We are asking the city council to consider the investment and savings that would occur if we can keep just 5 additional women from returning to prison at the cost of over \$20,000 per year to house them (then consider if they are incarcerated for 3-5 years each). If we can become a Habitat build it is very likely this program can and will become a component of the YWCA, a separate program (such as Stepping Stones is currently) but under the YWCA umbrella, thus ensuring continual funding and grant opportunities. We have met with Jane Chamberlain at YWCA and it was a very positive exchange that she was going to go forward with to her board. Deb Skillrude at Habitat originally thought this would be an awesome Women Build project but it appears that the Lowe's grant that comes to the Women Build local effort is targeted to a single family home. They were checking further to confirm. She was, however, still excited about Habitat's involvement.

Karen, we have been **STRONGLY** discouraged by the counselors who work with these women in prison and who know the population at Mayors Manor **NOT** to house them together. They really felt that would be a bad idea and counterproductive to their chances. Difficulty with boundary issues was certainly an issue.

We hope we will get the opportunity to discuss these ideas with city council and that they will consider this adjusted proposal. We thought it was worth the effort to pursue at this time.

If you have any guidance at all we are totally open to ideas. We are speaking to the Harvest Family Centre on March 25th for their support.

Mary

This message was sent using Illinois State University RedbirdMail

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Felicitas Sebastian

Date: Sun, 26 Feb 2012 08:30:50 -0500 (EST)

Subject: Update and Urgent Plea for Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women

Dear Friends of Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women,

Labyrinth is asking your help to request Bloomington City Council members provide adequate "seed money" to help begin construction of the Labyrinth house/office which will house 3-4 women who are on parole or probation in McLean County. We need stable housing for them, a place for them to begin to reunite with their children as well as an office/commons area from which services can be provided for the estimated 60 to 70 women on parole and probation who are precariously housed or living at one of our local shelters.

Since the city council meeting on February 13th significant progress has been made to develop extensive collaboration with other parts of our community who recognize the extent of the need for this program. The Labyrinth board has:

1. Met with Director and key staff of the YWCA and discussed collaboration of programs and compatibility of our missions.
2. Met with the Development Director of Habitat for Humanity to discuss the possibility of the Labyrinth House being built by Habitat.
3. Met with CEO and staff of Community Action, the agency which oversees Mayors Manor, for possible collaboration. We toured their facility.
4. Met with Sharon Walker, City of Bloomington Community Development Fiscal Officer.

The Labyrinth board has also obtained commitments from:

- *** James Hardie Building Products for significant quantity of construction materials
- *** MidState Limo for transportation assistance
- *** Holy Trinity St. Vincent de Paul Society for food and clothing for the residents
- *** Recycling Furniture for Families for furniture for the house
- *** Ministry and More for food for the residents
- *** An MSW, LCSW to provide supervision to future social work staff
- *** Dr. J. Hume for dental care
- *** Dr. C. Crockett for eye care
- *** Eclipse Hair Studio for free haircuts
- *** Mary Kay consultant for self care/ skin care

Currently, in the budget which will be presented to City Council on Monday evening, February 27th, at 7 pm the amount proposed for Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women has been reduced from \$300,000 to \$10,000. We are asking you to encourage your alderman and mayor to increase the amount allocated to \$90,000.00 so that we will have adequate 'seed money' to partner with Habitat for Humanity and the local community.

According to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) the recidivism rate for offenders is 51.1% and the annual cost for incarcerating an individual is \$21,911.

IDOC has increased the number of adult correctional facilities from 7 in 1970 to 27 in 2010.

Given the above numbers the IDOC has established a goal of improving the re-entry process for individuals being released back to the community. They recognize that they must work more closely with community based partners to develop programs with supportive services that will help offenders be successful in their re-entry to "society."

The comprehensive approach that Labyrinth is proposing increases the likelihood that the women involved in our services have a greater likelihood of successful re-integration back into society. This assumption is based on the following:

Labyrinth services are comprehensive and long term. We recognize the special needs of women being released from a correctional facility or extensively involved with the criminal justice system. The vast majority, well over 70% have an extensive history of trauma which has often involved childhood or adult physical and or sexual abuse/assaults. They often have a history of substance abuse and mental health issues and many have both. They lack healthy adult relationships and a support system. Many have experienced the loss of their children, having their parental rights terminated or are at risk of this occurring. For those who are working with DCFS to get their children back they have to demonstrate that they are capable of parenting their children. They have many tasks that they have to complete to regain the custody of their children which is a lengthy process i.e. compete substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, have the financial needs to support them and have a place to live etc. Although, our program does not provide housing for all of them and their children it does provide a safe and supportive environment for them to accomplish the goals established by DCFS. For those with or without

children a safe, supportive and secure environment is critical for their success to avoid further problems with the criminal justice system. By having their own "community" with on-site monitoring we provide them an environment that offers less distractions and temptations that they would face if living in a place that houses men and/or a large number of individuals whose needs are very different from female offenders. These women will benefit from living together, establishing their own community and have the opportunity to participate in activities with other offenders who may not live on site, but will be able to come to the facility and participate in services and programs, (i.e. groups) designed and facilitated by those trained to work with them. Labyrinth will work with other community providers and link the women to the needed resources and services that will enhance the women's likelihood of a successful transition into independent living. However, for this to occur it is imperative that they live in an environment that is designed to specifically address their special needs which includes close monitoring and high degree of safety with staff designated and trained to work with them.

If we kept even just 10 women from returning to prison, the community will save \$219,110 annually as opposed to spending \$657,330 annually for 30 women. (based on IDOC statistics above and the estimated number of women {60 to 70} who are on parole in McLean County).

1. Please email your alderman today so that they may have time to read your comments before council meets on Monday evening. Please ask them to increase the funds allocated in the budget so that Labyrinth can successfully partner with Habitat since the 5 unit house is a significantly larger and more expensive build than a single family home. Go to Google; enter **City of Bloomington, IL**; select **City Council**; click on any name or entire council

2. Consider attending the City Council meeting on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 pm at the City Hall on Olive Street to show support for this effort

3. PRAY MORE

Thanks a lot.

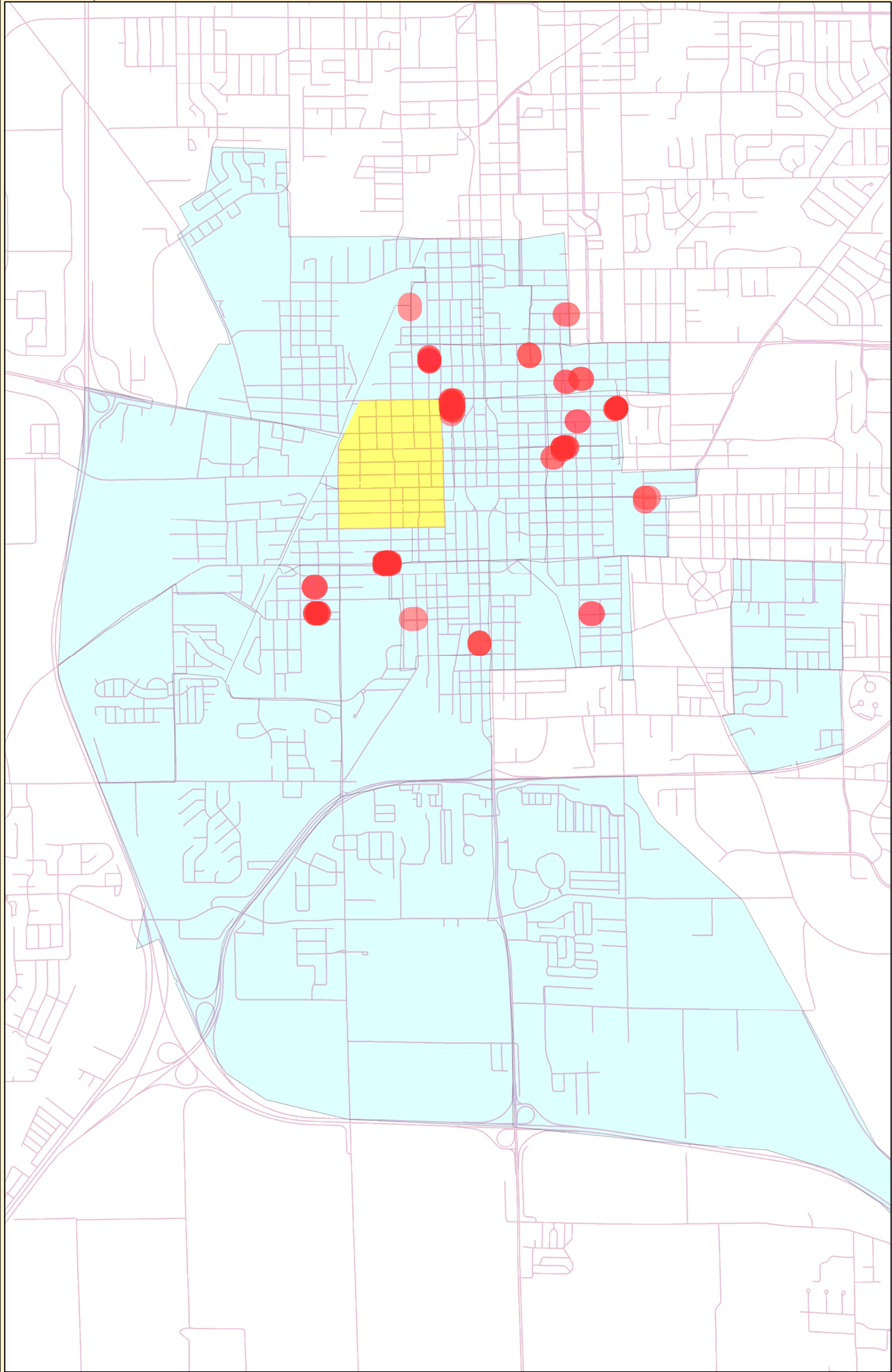
Feli Sebastian

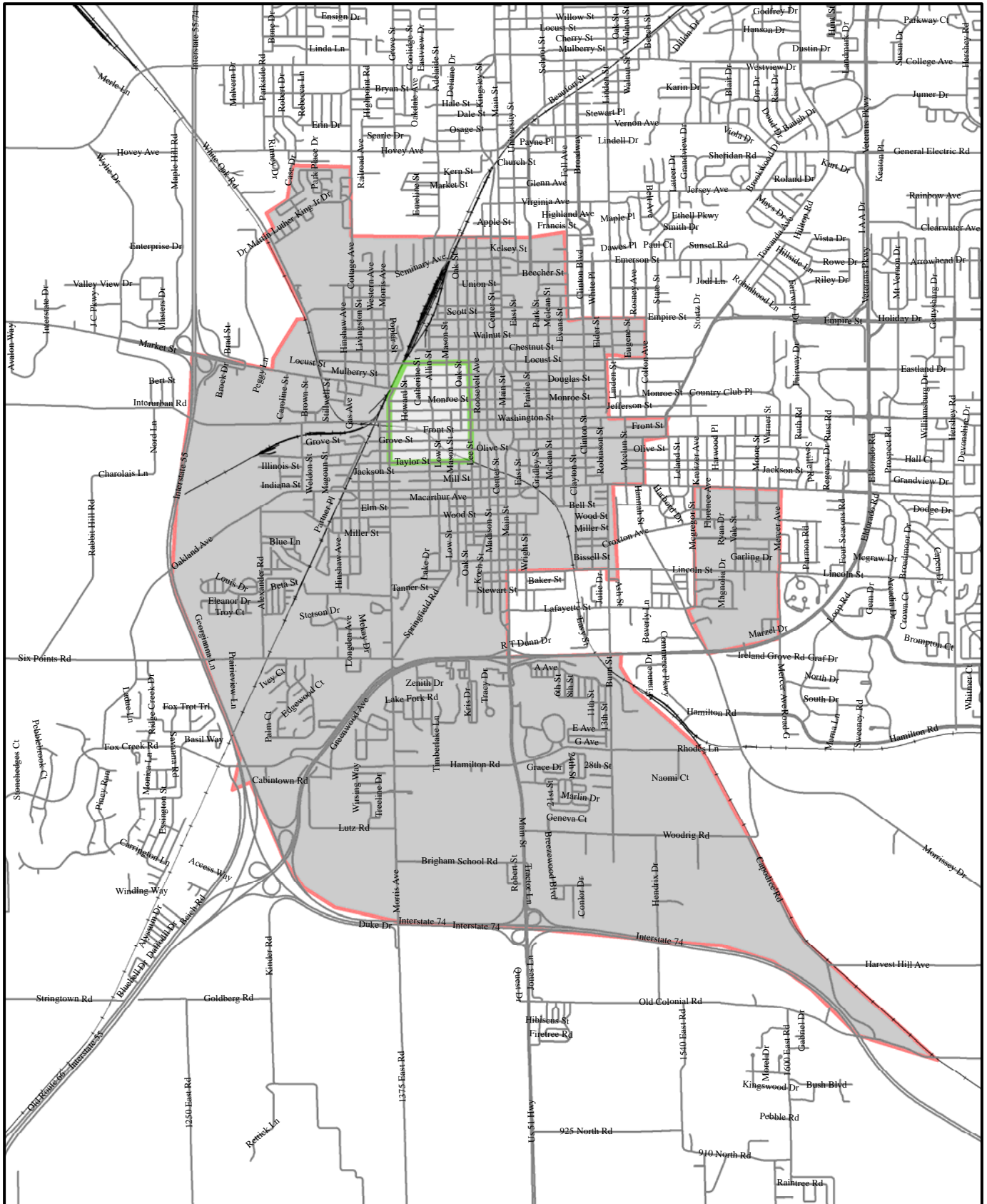
Co-President Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women Board

Item 7A - Sidewalks

	Address	PASER	Estimated_Leng	Area_sq_ft
1	600 blk roosevelt	3	39	318
2	624 e mulbery	4	40	307
3	905 n oak*	4	40	320
4	624 e mulbery/robinson	*	40	337
5	803 W Oakland	2	34	310
6	1011 s center	1	28	201
7	1020 folsom	4	38	305
8	1303 w elm	1	34	252
9	1018 folsom	*	33	230
10	600 blk roosevelt	2	18	109
11	1006 park	2	55	390
12	805 oakland*	1	70	503
13	804 oakland*	1	61	487
14	806 oakland*	1	59	502
15	516 e chestnut	1	67	573
16	607 allin*	3	42	325
17	802 oakland	3	29	227
18	600 blk roosevelt	2	33	270
19	600 blk roosevelt	2	34	276
20	600 blk roosevelt	2	10	64
21	907 n oak	1	33	273
22	503 e chestnut	4	43	311
23	601 e monroe*	1	72	519
24	702 douglas	3	30	170
25	706 e miller	*	43	278
26	506 e jefferson	3	36	257
27	603 e monroe	2	34	266
28	600 blk roosevelt	2	32	204
29	601 e monroe*	3	34	231
30	1214 fell/university	1	34	231
31	1001 e grove/mcclun	3	34	233
32	600 blk roosevelt	3	34	218
33	1001 e grove/mcclun	2	33	222
34	1009 low/miller	3	33	213
35	1216 n mason	*	79	505
36	600 blk roosevelt	2	27	207
			Toatal	10645
			Est. Cost at \$7.00 sq_ft	\$74,513

* PASER rating needs to be verified





Legend

- Slum/Blight Area
- Low/Moderate Boundary

Low/Moderate and Slum/Blight Areas in Bloomington, IL

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Map Created February 2009

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

HUD INCOME GUIDELINES FOR FY 2012-13/ PROJECT YEAR 38

(Effective 2-9-12)

Size of Household	<30% Ext. Low	31-50% Very Low	51-80% Moderate
1	\$0 - \$16,850	\$16,851 - \$28,100	\$28,101 - \$44,950
2	\$0 - \$19,250	\$19,251 - \$32,100	\$32,101 - \$51,350
3	\$0 - \$21,650	\$21,651 - \$36,100	\$36,101 - \$57,750
4	\$0 - \$24,050	\$24,051 - \$40,100	\$40,101 - \$64,150
5	\$0 - \$26,000	\$26,001 - \$43,350	\$43,351 - \$69,300
6	\$0 - \$27,900	\$27,901 - \$46,550	\$46,551 - \$74,450
7	\$0 - \$29,850	\$29,851 - \$49,750	\$49,751 - \$79,550
8	\$0 - \$31,750	\$31,751 - \$52,950	\$52,951 - \$84,700