



MEMORANDUM

TO: Village Board of Trustees
FROM: Village President Ben Sells
DATE: December 15, 2016
RE: 2016 Village Highlights

It has been a busy and productive year for Riverside. Although we all had to endure the inconveniences associated with construction and roadwork, the results will benefit our village for years, indeed generations, to come. I greatly appreciate the patience and cooperation of our residents and our business community while we have worked to improve our business district and three of the main access routes into our downtown. With the dust now settling, we can take pride in the accomplishments of the past year that I list below.

These successes have been made possible by a supportive community, a dedicated team of elected and appointed officials, and a talented and committed village staff. Together we have invested in our parks and forest, spurred economic development, and revitalized our downtown. We have made government more responsive, more efficient, and less expensive. We have worked with neighboring communities to accomplish long outstanding projects that will benefit our village and region. And we have engendered a civic environment of respect and teamwork that reflects the goodwill and public spirit of our residents.

Throughout these efforts we have given life to our ideals through the hard, practical realities of maintaining a village and providing the services our residents expect and deserve. We have been frugal, but we have also refused to forgo long-term benefit for short term gain. By looking forward we have honored our village's legacy of creativity and innovation.

Under separate cover you have received the year-end reports of our various departments. In them you will find more examples of the exemplary work done by our staff. Our departments continually strive to provide the highest level of service for our residents at the lowest cost. Our staff also aggressively pursues grant funding to offset the tax burden on our residents. In the last four years, the village has obtained over \$4.6 million in grants, a list of which is attached hereto.

Riverside has come a long way since Frederick Olmsted walked through a forest along the banks of the Des Plaines Rivers and saw in his genius eye a village that would change America. His vision of an urban oasis offering residents and visitors a place of natural beauty, community involvement, and modern conveniences remains alive today. It is in the light of these ideals that we should review the accomplishments below and the opportunities and challenges to come.

2016 Village Highlights

Government Initiatives

- Strengthened building code to insure proper maintenance of work sites and to curtail unpermitted work
- Revised subdivision standards to preserve village's historical integrity
- Updated variation standards to provide more guidance to residents seeking variations
- Updated sign ordinance, including allowing blade signs
- Updated Village code to allow microbreweries and craft distilleries
- Updated Village code to allow and regulate vacation rentals
- Submitted application for ITEP grant for improving Quincy Street
- Updated Village code to allow keeping of bees and hens

Infrastructure Initiatives

- Completed street resurfacing and streetscape, under budget, on Burlington Street and Longcommon Road
- Worked with North Riverside and R-B High School to complete First Avenue bike path servicing the high school and connecting Riverside to the Salt Creek Trail
- Led regional effort to establish a consolidated dispatch center
- Contracted for restoration of train station roof, platform, and interior floor
- Completed extensive restoration efforts to improve river views and riverbank habitat
- Adopted Master Landscape Plan
- Completed street resurfacing on Longcommon Road and Quincy Street
- Began work on restoration of Swan Pond wetland

Community Initiatives

- Established incentives for new businesses, including facade improvement program
- Welcomed La Barra, Sawmilly, and Erika's restaurants; Safehouse Brewing coming 2017
- Contracted to buy Harlem Ave. property; issued RFP for business development
- Assisted in production of "Ten Towns that Changed America" and hosted community event with Geoffrey Baer and Dan Andries
- Completed Phase One of marketing and branding initiative; adopted new village logo; completed village marketing video
- Completed new village website
- Completed village-wide traffic safety study
- Authorized first pop-up store in train station
- Initiated Riverside Responds to facilitate resident communication concerning village issues and concerns
- Completed installation of history of Riverside display in train station, the result of a joint project of the Historical and Preservation commissions
- Implemented new 15-minute parking spaces and established after hours valet parking to assist local businesses and customers
- Village-wide special events included the Farmers' Market, Riverside Arts Weekend, July 3/4 celebrations, Cruise Nights and Car Show, Riverfest, HopStop Craft Beer Festival, Riv-inia, and Holiday Stroll

Village of Riverside
Grant Revenue- Historical
Last Update: 12/9/2016

Description of Grants Awarded	Department	Y-T-D 2016 Awarded	2015 Awarded	2014 Awarded	2013 Awarded	Four Year Total
IDOT traffic safety	Police	\$ 29,256.15	\$ 2,290.43	\$ 9,068.64	\$ 6,867.80	\$ 47,483.02
Tobacco enforcement	Police	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	4,400.00
Cook County JAG grant- Police Mobile Tablets	Police	-	19,000.00	-	-	19,000.00
Cook County JAG grant- Police Patrol Bicycles	Police	-	18,000.00	-	-	18,000.00
Police phone evidence collection	Police	7,300.00	-	-	-	7,300.00
EMS assistance	Fire	541.00	2,220.00	-	-	2,761.00
Fire training	Fire	3,517.95	14,356.34	21,795.24	-	39,669.53
WCCA equipment	Administration	-	-	-	7,998.00	7,998.00
Riverside Township - Filming	Administration	5,000.00	2,450.00	1,750.00	1,500.00	10,700.00
Department of Labor	Administration	-	-	1,018.00	-	1,018.00
Railroad storm sewer outlet (MWRD)	Administration	-	64,390.00	-	-	64,390.00
Interior floor repair grant- Train station	Public Works	6,000.00	-	-	-	6,000.00
Train station masonry/tuck-pointing	Public Works	-	-	-	160,000.00	160,000.00
Illinois DCEO- Burling Road Resurfacing	Public Works	-	-	75,000.00	-	75,000.00
Centennial Plaza	Public Works	-	-	31,760.00	-	31,760.00
Train station roof, platform, and railing-ITEP	Public Works	-	-	757,560.00	-	757,560.00
Train station roof, platform, and railing project-Metra	Public Works	-	-	173,500.00	-	173,500.00
Train station roof, platform, and railing project-WSMTD	Public Works	-	235,000.00	-	-	235,000.00
SCADA system	Public Works	-	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00
Central Business District LED Lighting	Public Works	3,885.00	-	-	-	3,885.00
Wireless surveillance cameras at train station-Metra	Public Works	18,000.00	-	-	-	18,000.00
East Burlington Resurfacing-Construction	Community Dev.	-	1,130,500.00	-	-	1,130,500.00
East Burlington Resurfacing-Construction Engineering	Community Dev.	-	69,840.00	-	-	69,840.00
East Burlington Streetscape-Construction	Community Dev.	-	690,980.00	-	-	690,980.00
East Burlington Streetscape-Construction Engineering	Community Dev.	-	69,840.00	-	-	69,840.00
East Quincy & Longcommon Resurfacing	Community Dev.	-	828,000.00	-	-	828,000.00
CBD bicycle parking project	Community Dev.	-	48,400.00	-	-	48,400.00
Total Grants Awarded:		\$ 74,600.10	\$ 3,196,366.77	\$ 1,072,551.88	\$ 277,465.80	\$ 4,620,984.55