

MEMORANDUM**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**

DATE OF HEARING: July 17, 2007**TO:** Springfield Planning Commission**PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSMITTAL
MEMORANDUM****FROM:** John Tamulonis
Community Development Manager**SUBJECT:** Downtown Urban Renewal Public Involvement Plan

ISSUE

In the spring of 2007, at the direction of the Springfield City Council, City staff began to examine the option of urban renewal as a tool to promote Downtown Springfield's revitalization and future development. The preparation of a citizen involvement plan is a necessary and prudent element in the establishment of a new urban renewal district in the Downtown area.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the attached Draft Downtown Springfield Urban Renewal Public Involvement Plan is to ensure that residents, property owners, businesses, and other interested parties have convenient opportunities to become fully informed about urban renewal projects. The Public Involvement Plan (PIP) also provides opportunities for citizens to provide input throughout the process. The PIP strives to reach and include people from a wide variety of backgrounds in the process.

The Public Involvement Plan includes the formation of a Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC). The DURAC will be made up of members of groups and organizations representing the diversity of interests in the downtown Springfield core. The Committee's goal will be to aid in the revitalization of the downtown by ensuring that the projects and programs recommended in the Springfield Downtown Urban Renewal Plan (Renewal Plan) respect and reflect the interests of the represented population. The completion of the projects encompassed in the Renewal Plan is expected to improve the viability of downtown as a community center and a destination for shopping, living, working, and government services.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is presenting the Draft Public Involvement Plan for review and recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Downtown Urban Renewal Public Involvement Plan