

EPIC Block Club
(Every Person Is Concerned)
5951 North Lakewood
Chicago, Illinois 60660
773/271-2909
epicblkclub@yahoo.com
www.epicblockclub.org

March 29, 2008

To: Members, EPIC Block Club
From: EPIC Executive Committee *
Re: **Annual Report to Membership**

Below is a report to the EPIC Block Club membership for the 2007-08 year (items are not set forth with any priority):

Votes of EPIC Membership: Several matters of import were presented to EPIC members to approve or disapprove this past year, most of them by 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith. Through those deliberations, EPIC members:

1. Approved the Aldermanic Hollywood/Sheridan Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district.
2. Reviewed three options regarding the City's Affordable Housing Ordinance, then voted to sustain current mandated annual allotments. The Mayor's amendment, calling for an increase of 1,000 affordable units annually, subsequently was approved by the City Council. The third option, proposed by a coalition of community organizations, would have increased the number of affordable units by 2,000 annually. The ordinance has created 763 affordable units since enactment in 2003.
3. Approved the Broadway Bank's plan to renovate and expand the parking lot adjacent to its 5960 N. Broadway building and to demolish the rear garage at 5940 N. Broadway.
4. Citing pedestrian safety and the need for unimpeded emergency vehicle access, disapproved the removal of four no-parking signs at the intersection of Magnolia and Rosedale.
5. Approved the installation of a stop sign at the northeast corner of Magnolia at Elmdale.
6. Citing environmental pollution, disapproved the construction of a large exterior sign on a building in the 5800 block of North Broadway.

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Membership Votes continued:

7. Disapproved as cost prohibitive the installation of an exterior surveillance camera on the 1200 block of West Thorndale.

Traffic Calming Requests: Through Alderman Smith's office, EPIC arranged for right and left turning arrows on the pavement at the Elmdale-Broadway eastbound intersection and the installation of a speed hump and sign at 1218 Elmdale.

Pending Traffic Calming Requests: "Evening" of speed humps at 1255-56, 1324-23 and 1340-41 Elmdale (re Peoples Gas unfinished project), installation of speed hump sign at 1255, installation of stop sign at southwest corner of Elmdale at Magnolia and installation of preformed rubber device in alley at 1349 Thorndale. EPIC will follow up.

Rejected Traffic Calming Request: Repaving of north side of Elmdale between Glenwood and Broadway (re Peoples unfinished project) is not considered a priority because of more decrepit states of other blocks in the neighborhood.

Nicholas Senn High School: Alderman Smith has proposed four independent schools to displace existing academic programs at Nicholas Senn High School. They are the Language Arts Academy, Naval Academy, Theater Arts Technical High School and Arts of the Humanities College Prep High School. Smith's plan would end Senn's tenure as a general attendance neighborhood school. For additional information, telephone 773/293-8415.

Members of a Senn Strategic Planning Committee, an ad hoc group comprised of community residents, parents, students, faculty and staff, have crafted a school improvement plan. It addresses academic programs and standards, learning environment, campus safety and resource development, community involvement and outreach. EPIC President Lynn Pierce is a member of the committee. For additional information, telephone 773/534-2465.

Crime on Thorndale: Concerned residents have revitalized the Thorndale Action Task Force (TATF) to address crime-related problems on the 1100 block of West Thorndale. EPIC President Pierce is chairing the ad-hoc committee and EPIC Recording Secretary Michael Bergmann is a member. *Please see TATF objectives distributed at the registration desk.* The TATF meets with the Edgewater Community Council (ECC) Safety and Housing Committee at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month at ECC, 6044 N. Broadway.

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Police-Community Partnerships: Community policing Beat 2433 meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Edgewater Library, 1210 W. Elmdale, and Beat 2013 meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at Philadelphia Church, 5437 N. Clark. President Pierce represents EPIC at both monthly meetings. The EPIC-NEBA (North Edgewater Beach Association) positive loitering walks continue at 7 p.m. Mondays, beginning at the northeast corner of Broadway and Thorndale.

Public Art Project: EPIC contributed \$100 to the Bryn Mawr overpass bricolage project and President Pierce is representing the block club on an ad hoc committee planning a companion mural on the south side of the underpass. For a schedule of workshops and meetings, telephone 48th Ward Aldermanic Assistant Ernesto Constantino at 773/293-8411.

Trimming Trees: At EPIC's request, the Bureau of Forestry trimmed all of the parkway trees on the 5930 block of North Lakewood in mid-September last year. Thank you, Aldermanic Assistant Constantino! To arrange for BOF trimming of parkway trees, call 311 or Constantino at 773/293-8411.

Development Updates:

According to developer Richard Lettvin, the 36-unit **Edgewater Glen Condominiums at 5858 N. Broadway** (34 residential and two retail units, with 36 parking spaces) will be completed by late summer this year. Negotiations are underway with prospective commercial tenants, an upscale coffee shop among them.

According to developer William Platt, construction of **The Granville at the northeast corner of Broadway and Granville** will be completed in two stages. The 30,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, with Staples as the anchor tenant, will be ready for occupancy by the end of July. The 160 residential units with 280 interior parking spaces will be available by the end of September. Additional retail tenants are in the process of being identified.

Broadway Bank: According to Senior Vice President Kaushik Pancholi, construction will begin in early spring to renovate the parking lot adjacent to the bank's 5960 N. Broadway building. When refurbished, the existing lot will provide 12 parking spaces for bank patrons. The rear garage at 5940 N. Broadway already has been demolished and will accommodate three parking spaces for bank employees. Overall construction is expected to be completed by the end of June.

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EPIC's Website: The block club's website at www.epicblockclub.org has been redesigned by EPIC Recording Secretary Michael Bergmann. Access the site frequently for current news, events, safety bulletins, useful links and neighborhood businesses, services and organizations.

EPIC Representation: Recording Secretary Michael Bergmann was reelected and Vice President Stephen Northey was elected to ECC's board of directors for calendar year 2008. Bergmann co-chairs ECC's Safety and Housing Committee. Northey is a member of ECC's Planning and Development Committee and EPIC's delegate to the 48th Ward Zoning and Planning Committee (member Willard Duncan is alternate). Member Marsha Holland represents EPIC on the Edgewater Development Corporation. Pierce represents EPIC on ECC's Education Committee, the Last Four Miles Committee (addressing additional park space in Edgewater and Rogers Park) and the Ridge Fire House Committee (charged with determining future use of the Chicago Fire Department station at 5712 N. Ridge). The battalion is to be relocated to new quarters on Clark street, 2008 date to be determined.

Questions? Comments? E-mail epicblkclub@yahoo.com or call 773/271-2909.

* Members of the EPIC Block Club Executive Committee are President Lynn Pierce, Vice President Stephen Northey, Recording Secretary Michael Bergmann Corresponding Secretary vacant (Ellen Domke resigned in December 2007) and Treasurer Michael McCalley.