

EPIC Block Club
(Every Person Is Concerned)
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December 3, 2007

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

According to 48th Ward Aldermanic Assistant Thomas Samuels, a citywide backlog of traffic calming requests will delay or preclude attending to the following 2007 requests in the EPIC Block Club jurisdictional area:

1. "Evening" of uneven speed humps at 1323-24, 1340-41 and 1255-56 W. Elmdale (re Peoples Energy unfinished project). While the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) has determined that the humps are in "good condition," 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith, at EPIC's request, will arrange for the reinstallation of the humps in 2008. EPIC will follow up.
2. Installation of stop sign at southwest corner of Elmdale at Magnolia. While CDOT rejected the request because Elmdale is classified as an arterial, not a major highway or thoroughfare, Alderman Smith will introduce legislation in 2008 to install the sign through what is called Commissioner's Authority. EPIC will follow up.
3. Repavement of north side of Elmdale between Glenwood and Broadway (re Peoples Energy unfinished project). The repaving is not considered a priority because of more decrepit states of other blocks in the neighborhood.

Also according to Samuels, the following infrastructure requests have been approved:

1. Installation of speed hump sign on parkway at 1255 W. Elmdale. Sign will be installed as soon as possible. EPIC will follow up.
2. Installation of speed hump in alley at 1349 W. Thorndale. A preformed rubber device will be installed this winter. EPIC will follow up.

3. Right and left turning arrows have been installed on the pavement at the Elmdale/Broadway eastbound intersection.

Additional information:

1. According to Aldermanic Assistant Ernesto Constantino, the Department of Water Management is reconstructing the carriage walk at Thorndale and Elmdale (walkway from the curb to the sidewalk).

2. 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith has proposed four independent schools to displace existing academic programs at 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. If approved by Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Board of Education, Smith's plan would end Senn's tenure as a general attendance neighborhood school. Additional particulars are available by telephoning the Alderman's office at 773/293-8416. In a related matter, an ad hoc committee of faculty, staff, parents, community members and students has crafted a Senn Strategic Plan that has been approved by Senn's Local School Council. For additional particulars, telephone Senn at 773/534-2365.

3. The meeting of Beat 2013 is held at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Philadelphia Church, 5437 N. Clark. Community policing Beat 2433 meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Edgewater Library, 1210 W. Elmdale.

4. Concerned residents have revitalized the Thorndale Action Task Force to address crime-related problems on the 1100 block of West Thorndale. EPIC President Lynn Pierce is chairing the ad-hoc committee and EPIC Recording Secretary Michael Bergmann is a member. Of 19 newspaper storage boxes, being used as perches by gang members, 16 have been removed as have the benches on Broadway at the Armory. Extended police foot patrols have been requested from the 20th and 24th Chicago Police Department districts between 7 and 10 p.m. nightly. Over 700 concerned citizens signed increased patrol petitions circulated by ECC. The task force is meeting with ECC's Safety and Housing Committee on the last Tuesday of each month at ECC offices, 6044 N. Broadway.