

CITY OF CALUMET CITY

Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones

and the

Calumet City, City Council

City Clerk: Nyota Figgs

City Treasurer: Gerry Tarka

1ST Ward Alderman: Michael Navarrete

2ND Ward Alderwoman: Monet S. Wilson

3RD Ward Alderman: DeAndre Tillman

4TH Ward Alderman: Ramonde D. Williams

5TH Ward Alderman: DeJuan Gardner

6TH Ward Alderman: James Patton

7TH Ward Alderman: Anthony Smith

YEAR-END ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022





CITY OF CALUMET CITY GREEN ALLEY PROGRAM MWRD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

MWRD Awards Calumet City \$500,000.00



Sample location in Dubuque Iowa showing before and after benefits

What is a Green Alley?

Green alleys incorporate a variety of characteristics - permeable pavements (asphalt, concrete, or pavers) that allow stormwater to filter through the pavement and drain into the ground, instead of collecting on hard surfaces or draining into the sewer system. Ultimately, green alleys allow rainwater to pass through permeable pavements back into the earth – reducing localized flooding and hazardous conditions that can be caused by excessive rainwater. Specifically utilized are sustainable materials, pervious pavements, and effective drainage to create a better environment for residents. Its one of many environmentally-friendly initiatives put forth by the City.

The City of Calumet City is proud to be one of the few communities facilitating a green alley program (a pilot initiative) within the southland region. This program is assisted by a grant award from MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District) in the amount of \$500,000. Regarding this pilot effort, alleys were chosen strategically supported by a City partnership with the University of Illinois to meet the objectives of the green alley program. The pilot program includes the following alley locations:

- West side of Prairie Avenue between State Street and Stewart Avenue
- Exchange Avenue North of Herbert Breclaw Drive and South of Stewart Ave
- Exchange Avenue South of Herbert Breclaw Drive and North of Harding Avenue

Within the near future, additional alleys will be added as funding becomes available.

Triggi Construction, Inc. has been awarded the project per a bid process and has a proven track record of experience in green alley construction. Calumet City Engineering, Public Works, and Community & Economic Development staff held a preconstruction meeting (at the end of November 2022) with Triggi; and work efforts are underway and expected to be completed by the first of the year 2023. The City's engineering firm, Farnsworth, is overseeing project activities.

For more information about green alleys, please contact the City's Public Works Department or its Department of Community and Economic Development.

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INTRODUCTION

Thaddeus M. Jones was elected as the Mayor of the City of Calumet City and began his tenure on May 1, 2021. Mayor Jones is the chief executive and administrative officer of the City charged with carrying out the policies set by the City Council and seeing to it that laws are enforced. He works diligently with his City Council made up of elected officials encompassing seven Aldermen, City Treasurer, and City Clerk. The City is a Mayor-Council form of government - and the Mayor is the duly-elected officer responsible for all administrative functions with the assistance of his appointed Chief of Staff. However, the most important parts of Mayor Jones' leadership role entails economic development and revitalization, public safety, and improving quality of life for residents - in addition to advancing community cohesion and promoting civic awareness.

Mayor Jones takes a heartfelt approach to moving Calumet City forward, utilizing strategic expertise and the support of the City Council and administrative Departments.

Community and Economic Development (CED)



The following development projects (completed and underway) address large abandoned commercial buildings that have been abandoned and blighted for many, many years. They will now be placed back on the tax rolls alleviating the tax burdens for local residents. In addition to addressing big box abandoned facilities, the Administration has brought in 75 small businesses (leases) in the service and food industries that are beginning to fill in the spaces within vacant commercial districts.

The developments below not only bring in significant property tax and sales tax revenue that will help enhance services to the community, the developments also bring in higher paying jobs and revitalization and newness to these areas as well.

Former Circuit City, River Oaks West

A **Youth Fitness Academy** has been proposed for the location as negotiations are underway. Young people will have an opportunity to engage in age-appropriate regular physical exercise, helping them build strong muscles, bones, and joints. Fitness programs will also help to build character and a sense of teamwork while increasing their strength and flexibility. And most important, the Center will be designed to give youth purpose and alternatives to bad behavior. Specifics regarding fitness programs include: strength, agility, speed and weight training; football training by position; baseball batting and field technique training; basketball skill training and weight training; gymnastics and tumbling training; nutrition training; mental health observations and consulting; and physical therapy training.

Former Pepe's, River Oaks Drive

A **Brewery** has been identified for the location. Small breweries have become extremely popular over the past few years and have been steadily rising in popularity. The reasons for this attractiveness include: craft beers are more widely available than they once were; customers want variety and uniqueness; and people like supporting independent companies. Calumet City's brewery project is birthed out

of a desire to have an inviting and welcoming space to create positive experiences and memories while enjoying quality craft beer. Unique, but approachable beer, will be brewed using techniques developed by *African American Brew Masters*. This development will become a destination location for the entire region.

308 Torrence Avenue



OMEGA PSI PHI
FRATERNITY, INC.

The City is proud to announce that the **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** (founded in 1911) will be opening a community center at this location to help address some of the social needs within the surrounding neighborhoods and the community as a whole. Omega Psi Phi's mission includes fostering humanity, freedom, and dignity - and these local Brothers are well known for their community service. This center will provide a place for members of the community to gather for group activities, social support, public information, and other purposes – including classes on technology, creativity, and/or social activities. Programming will offer countless opportunities for young people to make friends and learn new skills - as well as provide a safe haven for adults and seniors to congregate as well for various activities and programs.

Former Ingalls Facility

The property is undergoing the development of a health care facility for seniors (PACE) at the former Ingalls building just west of Torrence. *What is PACE?* PACE stands for a **"Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly"** and is designed to offer comprehensive health services for seniors living in the community who would otherwise have to relocate to a nursing facility. PACE creates a new model of community-based, comprehensive care in Calumet City that will give seniors an additional choice in how they access health care as needs change with age, allowing more seniors to continue living at home safely, and for longer. PACE will put in place an integrated model of care that is specific to each senior - and this level of customization will improve health outcomes, not just for the seniors who enroll in the program, but for the overall community.

The PACE mission includes: offering choices for those at risk of needing a nursing home; helping to preserve family units and sustain independence through care at home and in the community; simplifying access to services and preventing fragmented care; and providing individualized care through teams of healthcare professionals. This is just one of the premier developments to open in Calumet City in 2023.

Former Target, River Oaks West

The City has discussed the development of an **Indoor Farming facility**, which includes retail and education components, for a few years now. However, this administration has expedited its development progress from the COVID impact delays. In addition to occupying the former Target (an abandoned big-box retail store), the practical benefits of indoor vertical farms means that produce can grow indoors 365 days per year, regardless of the weather conditions. Vertical farms are not susceptible to the impacts of storms or extreme weather events in the way conventional farms are. A climate-controlled environment allows for year-round, reliable food production. And the partnerships with local colleges, high schools, and grade schools are paramount to the education of our youth. Opening day is expected the first of the year 2023.

Blues Water Run

The City has discussed the development of a **9-acre park along the Little Calumet River including an outdoor entertainment venue** for a few years now. However, this current administration has expedited development progress – including acquisition of an additional approximately 9 acres of land that was previously over \$300,000 tax delinquent. The Blues Water Run park development has now expanded from about 9 acres to nearly 18 acres of open space. \$1.88 million in grants were awarded by Illinois Department of Natural Resources for park development and nearly \$400,000 is still pending consideration. The City's adaptation of a little Ravinia will be here soon. Opening date is expected spring 2023

800 Riverside Drive

The City acquired this tax delinquent property in mid 2022 and has sold it to HB Taylor Co. for its \$6 million expansion. HB Taylor is currently located on Riverside Drive as well with over 60 years of experience in the food industry. The company is recognized by its customers and its peers as a world class partner in food science and production. The expansion will provide additional property tax revenue to the City as well as high-paying jobs in the industry.

Former Walgreens, River Oaks Drive

Dollar General has acquired the Former Walgreens (opened early 2022). Shopping is hassle-free and affordable at this convenient location. The store is delivering everyday low prices on items such as food, snacks, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies, basic apparel, housewares, seasonal items, paper products and much more.

Marble Street (30 acres) far Northeast Side of the City

The City will be conveying use of the Marble Street properties to a Solar Energy Company early 2023. In September 2021, Illinois passed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) which builds on the success of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) passed in 2016. These groundbreaking bills bring the benefits of clean energy economy to residents and businesses across Illinois, and will rapidly expand access to the savings, clean energy, and job benefits of solar power. Calumet City is proud to be a part of the effort and move to provide Solar Energy at its Marble Street site. The City established an Energy Efficiency Committee to recruit, investigate, and recommend the best solar companies for Council consideration and chose the absolute best firm to do the job in partnership with ComEd.



New Venue - Former Toys R Us, River Oaks Drive

The City's support of a development for an event venue is nearly complete at the former Toys R Us located on River Oaks Drive – just east of River Oaks Mall. The official Grand Opening of D.A.'s Banquets and Events is scheduled for March 30, 2023 – the occasion will include the City's Business and Resident Appreciation event as well. As one of the City's flagship redevelopments, it stands to reason to hold a Business and Resident appreciation



simultaneously with the grand opening. This **Upscale Entertainment Venue** will open February 2023 offering the perfect venue for wedding ceremonies, receptions, and other major family and business events. Choosing the perfect venue is one of the biggest decisions people make in planning an event; and now in Calumet City, there will be a location that will make sure you and all of your guests have the most memorable and exquisite experience imaginable. There's no need to travel downtown or go to other towns for this kind of dream experience.

300 Block of Torrence (1.8 Acres of Vacant Land)



Buddy Bear car wash development is complete. It's an individual and family services company based out of Chicago and still growing. Not only is the development state of the art, but Buddy Bear has been an excellent neighborhood partner – participating in many resident programs and activities. And recently celebrating 50 years of giving back to communities within the region.



Calumet City's Baymont Hotel Revitalized

The Baymont hotel is under new ownership and new management that have invested over \$250,000.00 to revitalize the facility. The City worked directly with the organization to ensure a state of the art hotel that competes with downtown locations.

- Close to downtown Chicago - a comfortable, convenient place to begin adventures in Illinois. The Baymont is located less than 30 miles from Chicago at the state line, within close proximity to Hammond, Indiana. It offers easy access to I-94, making it easy to reach all the Windy City has to offer.
- Enjoy a relaxing dip in the heated indoor pool, free Wi-Fi, and a free continental breakfast every morning. Take advantage of meeting space and business center. Free parking for vehicles of all sizes.
- Just minutes from shopping and sightseeing at Sand Ridge Nature Preserve. Hit the links at one of several nearby golf courses. Head to Horseshoe Casino for gambling and live shows. Check out Calumet City's two Smiley Face water towers, which have served as the backdrop for a number of Hollywood productions and music videos.

Richards Building Supply at New Location – on Huntington Drive

When many businesses chose to leave the south suburbs for expansion, Richards Building Supply chose to stay in Calumet City and move to 1400 Huntington Drive – the City's business district located at the southeast section of town. The expansion investment encompassed hundreds of thousands of dollars – bringing additional jobs to the City. The company



offers the most reputable manufacturers in roofing, siding, windows, decking, doors, and more. Richards supports all professional Remodeling, Restoration, and New Construction contractors through quality materials, comprehensive training, and results-driven marketing. When you visit the Calumet City showroom, if you don't see what you're looking for, ask a Branch Team Member for assistance; special order material solutions are available.

American Kitchen Delight, Inc (AKDI) Comes to Calumet City and Expands Boundaries



The City has expanded its boundaries by acquiring Cook County property to bring American Kitchen Delight to Calumet City. American Kitchen Delights, Inc. is a premier manufacturer of custom prepared fresh-frozen foods and contract food processor/packer operating out of the Chicagoland since 1986) The company is independently owned and has steadily grown and prospered in the 30+ years of operations. AKDI started operating out of a 3,000 square foot plant in Skokie, Illinois producing private label bread rolls and pizzas. There were several plant expansions between 1986 and 1993 but in 1994, a move was necessary to accommodate growth. And another move is required to continue that growth and that is the location in Calumet City bringing more jobs and property tax revenue.

AKDI provides food products and packing services to a wide range of markets, such as retail grocery store chains and club stores, foodservice, hospitality, broad liners/distributors, military and travel markets. We serve our customers as a co-packer or as a private label manufacturer, according to their individual needs. AKDI has an extensive library of product formulas but also can tailor or customize to customer requirements or formulas. Product categories include: Pizzas, Sandwiches/Hot Handhelds, Prepared Foods/Entrees/Ethnic Specialties, Appetizers/Snacks, Baked Goods, Soups/Sauces/Dips and Co-Packing/Assembly/Processing. Products are produced under American Kitchen Delights brands or under customer private label.

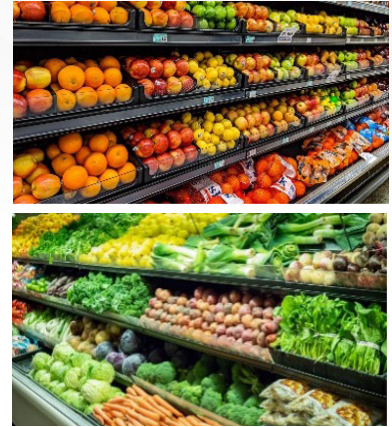
HB Taylor – Mayor Expansion



The HB Taylor company acquired the City's property located at 800 Riverside drive adjacent to its existing operation already located in Calumet City. The property acquired had been abandoned for over 15 years. The purpose of this acquisition is for HB Taylor's expansion efforts that bring more jobs and property tax revenue to the City administration and will cost the company millions to accomplish. This is HB Taylor's commitment to Calumet City. The company is a broad based vertically integrated manufacturer of flavors, colors and specialty products. With over 60 years of experience in the food industry, H.B. Taylor Co. is recognized by customers and peers as a world class partner. The company offers a full line of flavors in liquid, powdered and spray dried form. It provides custom color blends, color solutions, tahini's, and specialized seed roasting and processing. The food scientists are experts in the field and develop products that exceed expectations. H.B. Taylor Co. partners with many industry peers as a toll manufacturer for spray dry and blending production.

New Grocery Store - Former Family Dollar

H2A Retail, LLC, will soon develop the former Family Dollar, located at 893 Burnham, into a state-of-the-art grocery store and will occupy over 8,000 square feet - bringing fresh fruits and vegetables; fresh bakery and breads; fresh meat and seafood; pasta and rice; oils, sauces, salad dressings, and condiments; cereals and breakfast foods; soups and canned goods; frozen foods; produce, dairy, cheese, and eggs; household items; pharmacy products; snacks; and much more. This location provides near-by grocery items to the neighborhoods with savings (*cooking and preparing meals at home makes you spend less compared to food bought at restaurants or fast-food chains*); healthier food choices (*with a nearby grocery store, you can always choose to eat fresh and healthy food*); and convenience (*healthier food choices are truly the product of convenience. Since healthy food has a short shelf life, living near a grocery provides the convenience of going to the grocery often*).



Midland Tool & Supply Expansion, Huntington Drive Business District



Midland Tool & Supply was founded in 1962 in Oak Park, Michigan, and the goal was simple - stock tools to support the growth of Detroit's automotive and steel industries. Over the last 60 years, the company has evolved substantially, mainly by listening to customers' needs and expanding inventory accordingly. Today, the company is located in Calumet City at 1479 Regency Court (Huntington Drive Business District) and offering a "one-stop-shop" for a wide-range of high-quality construction products and job-site supplies, all from industry leading brands - from coffee, office supplies and paper products, to welders, safety gear and power tools.

Midland has proposed a major expansion at the Calumet City location bringing additional jobs, property tax revenue, and significant sales tax revenue to the community. The company is acquiring a little over 4 acres of vacant property for this major expansion – a million dollar development supporting an additional \$15 million in sales.

River Oaks Shopping Center

Just Re-imagining River Oaks

The Mayor and City Administration are investigating alternatives to acquire River Oaks Mall and to manage its operations – purpose is to have better control over revitalization, tenants, and safety.





BOOTS ON THE GROUND



The Mayor established the *Boots on the Ground* program within the CED (in cooperation with the Departments of Building and Zoning and Business Licenses) to ensure existing small business retention and to establish a single point-of-contact for new small business development. Ultimately, the goal is an economic development strategy to proactively connect with existing small businesses to understand and respond to their specific needs, so that small businesses grow, stay, and become more committed to the community. Special attention is given to businesses that employ less than 25 people – as small businesses are the driver of job growth. Ultimately, Boots on the Ground is a hands-on, front-line approach to providing support to the business community to help ensure their success within Calumet City. The program is strategic, operational, and ground-level, thus referred to as “*Boots on the Ground.*”

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH



The City established a Youth Development Department in 2022 (located at the Calumet City Public Library) which includes state-of-the-art programs relative to the needs of youth utilizing best practices. These programs have made a significant difference in the development and safety of young people who live in the community.

The City's programs and its partners work with at-risk youth and their families to help them discover what they are capable of achieving. Staff inspires positive development through its partnerships with variety of child welfare, counseling, juvenile justice and prevention services to help overcome challenges such as abuse, substance use, homelessness, and bad behaviors. The programs' goals include providing community-based support to empower all youth to face life's challenges with confidence, competence, and dignity. The City's major youth-related programs are identified as follows:

- *CHAMPS* – a male mentoring program that educates, employs, and exposes boys and young men of color beyond the four walls of a school - to help them achieve their dreams and goals.
- *Youth Development* – a process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood to achieve his or her full potential. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has provided grant funding for this program.
- *Youth Violence Prevention* – a program devoted to eliminating the causes and consequences of youth violence and to inform the development and prevention interventions to support children, youth, and families living in these environments. These efforts are also grant funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).
- *Youth Employment Program* – provides internships, training, and employment for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The program was recently awarded a grant from the from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).
- *High-School Internship Program* - internships in high school greatly benefit and help youth to stand out on any application submitted – for a job or for college. “Internships help students gain the related experience that employers are looking for when hiring; and gives young people a first look into what real life would be like - an idea about what it's like to have a full-time job. It also gives students the opportunity to become experienced with different working environments to see what suits best.
- *College Internship Programs* – these internships are more of a professional learning experience that offer meaningful, practical work related to a college student's major, field of study, or career interest. College students have the opportunity to work with leadership in the Mayor's office, Information Technology, Building and Zoning, Community and Economic Development, Engineering, Public Relations, Public Works, and Public Safety. These particular internships give college students the opportunity for professional career exploration and development, and to learn new skills. This is very important because it provides students with a valuable opportunity to learn in a real work environment with renowned professionals in their industries, and develop key competencies, skills, and work characteristics that employers seek.

SENIOR OUTREACH/SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC)

One of the Mayor's main priorities involves **Elevating Aging-in-Community** within Calumet City and its commitment to senior citizens. A **strategic guide** has been developed to ensure that Calumet City's aging population has what it needs – including access to resources beyond the capacity of the City Administration. Calumet City was one of five municipalities that participated during 2021 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (AiaCR) program - sponsored by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Planning/Aging, funded by a grant from the RRF

Foundation for Aging. The Planning/Aging organization led two public meetings and reviewed input to identify strategies by which Calumet City could elevate its support of aging-in-community – thus strategic guide. The City proceeded with implementation of guide recommendations immediately.

In addition, the City has been AARP-certified as an age-friendly and livable community since 2020 – meaning the administration offers choices in where to live and how to get around. And it equitably serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities, and other backgrounds. AARP would not have certified Calumet City if these efforts were not made. However, the City is currently exceeding the requirements of certification – making Calumet City one of the best that AARP recognizes. More about AARP in the coming paragraphs.

Therefore, in the fall of 2022, Mayor Jones encouraged his Council to establish the Calumet City Senior Advisory Committee (SCAC). The City Council has determined that significant residential community interests are served by establishing this committee - its programs will help promote and enhance quality of life for seniors and encourage senior citizen involvement. Along with longer lives, there are important changes for this community in areas such as health, living arrangements, and family relationships.

As more retire, job responsibilities are replaced with leisure time activities such as travel, education, volunteer services, and more. But at the same time, the Administration knows there exists a need to develop programs and provide more information to seniors about recreation activities, health care, transportation, housing, counseling, financing and financial assistance, day care, companionship, and much more. Therefore, SCAC and its discussion of issues and concerns of the City's senior population, will ultimately provide recommendations to the City that will surely improve quality of life for older adults in the community. The City honors its senior residents with the utmost respect and care.

In addition, Mayor Jones and the City Administration are sponsoring a **Senior Employment Recruitment Program**. The City is looking forward to hiring older adults who live within the corporate boundaries of Calumet City. The Administration believes that older workers bring a level of experience, critical thinking, and sheer knowledge that cannot be duplicated and taught. Older workers have demonstrated their commitment to the workforce by staying in jobs longer, presenting strong work ethics, retaining the basics of business knowledge, proving that the best teams are multi-generational, and playing a critical role in training the next generation of workers. Seniors must be 55 years of age and older, possess a high school diploma at minimum, and hold a valid driver's license or have reliable transportation to qualify for employment consideration.

CALUMET CITY IS AARP-CERTIFIED



Calumet City received its certification in January 2020

Here is more about AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) and the City's certification.

AARP Livable Communities and AARP state offices work with local leaders and residents to help ensure that towns, cities, and communities nationwide are livable for people of all ages. The City is proud to announce Calumet City was chosen for AARP-Certification status back in 2020 - one of the few communities to reach certification status within the region.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is the United States affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. Calumet City is on the forefront of serving its senior population.

CALUMET CITY ANIMAL CONTROL



Animal Control has been hard at work with new benefits coming soon for residents and their pets - including a microchip clinic. Animal Control has a goal of increasing their return to owner numbers while still in the field, so pets do not end up in shelters for longer periods. This reduces kennel stress and illnesses – and overcrowding of the Calumet City shelter.

Animal control enforces local ordinances and giving residents an opportunity to learn as well. Having a pet in Calumet City is quite easy and all breeds are welcome. A rabies vaccine and city licenses are needed to own pets within city limits. Animal Control has remained a No-Kill Shelter, only euthanizing for severe behavioral or medical issues. Animal Control also helps with removing feral cats and some wildlife when they are a risk to the community.

As of June 2022, Animal Control has taken in 200 cats and dogs, 36 returning home, and the rest going to shelters and rescues for adoption. All strays are held for 5 days before being temperament tested and placed. Dogs can sit at animal control for a few months before being transferred. *Not sure where to take your pet for care?* Call Animal Control! There are plenty of resources for our residents such as low cost veterinary care, vaccine clinics, and spay and neuter programs. Staff can also help with locations for free pet food pantries.

Animal Control doesn't have to be your only stop when surrendering a pet, Staff can also help with resources for surrender prevention. Animal Control is here to make sure your relationship with your pet and the community is a safe and respectful one.

CALUMET CITY IS CERTIFIED BY THE BETTER CITIES FOR PETS PROGRAM



Calumet City received its certification in January 2019

Science tells us that when people have a pet, they tend to get more exercise, report less loneliness and stress, and have stronger social ties. That's probably why more people than ever before see pets as family. They make our lives better, and we want to spend as much time with them as we can.

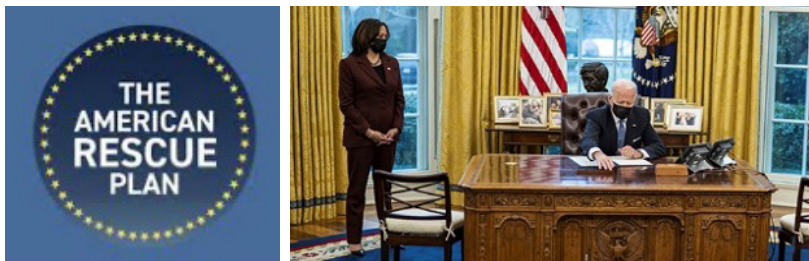
The BETTER CITIES FOR PETS program helps cities be pet-friendly so more people can enjoy the benefits of a life with pets. It was created by Mars Petcare and includes a playbook for cities, an assessment tool, a city certification program, and free online resources.

Calumet City met the criteria for the Better Cities for Pets certification because it embodies the 12 Traits of Pet-Friendly Cities as shown in the wheel provided here. Essential to each trait is the expectation of responsible pet ownership and how the bond between people and pets makes us all healthier. In addition, the Blues Water Run project includes a state-of-the-art dog park within its design.

CALUMET CITY'S RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CC-RAP)

In an effort to assist residents during 2022, the City provided up to \$500.00 for those who could prove financial need relative to past due utility bills, major appliances, food and nutrition, medical bills, medicine, gas, and other past-due expenses that may qualify for funding. Residents had to equate need with the impact that COVID had on their finances and quality of life. Payment was made directly to the billing sources.

The Mayor and City Council determined that significant residential community interests were served by providing the *Calumet City Residential Assistance Program (CC-RAP)* under the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)*. CC-RAP was designed to help improve/enhance quality of life for residents who live within the corporate boundaries of Calumet City and to help ensure sustainability within their homes upon the impact of COVID.



President Biden signs the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

CALUMET CITY SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAM (CC-SBRP)

The Mayor and City Council created a temporary **Small Business Recovery Program (CC-SBRP)** that was implemented late 2021. The program provided financial assistance (grants) to small, for-profit businesses directly impacted by revenue loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was available to Calumet City, for-profit and non-profit businesses located in commercial and industrial zoned areas within the City's corporate boundaries.

CC-SBRP was funded by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). See images above. The City funded nine qualifying small businesses with \$5,000 to be utilized for eligible expenses as identified within the application process. The small business community impacts Calumet City in a variety of ways, from interpersonal relationships - to our local government - to the sustainability of our local economy. Small

businesses keep City neighborhoods healthy and vital and are important as they provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and create meaningful jobs with greater job satisfaction than positions with larger, traditional companies. They help foster the City's local economies, keeping money close to home and supporting neighborhoods and communities.

NO-CASH BID TASK FORCE - COMBATting ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Although not limited to Calumet City – this is an issue that has impacted both rich and poor communities – all communities have been affected - there are no exceptions! Derelict houses, dormant factories, moribund strip malls, and other types of vacant and abandoned, tax-delinquent properties are among the most visible outward signs of a community's reversing fortune. Properties that have turned from productive use to disuse are found in cities, suburbs, and rural areas throughout the entire country, and they vary widely in size, shape, and former use – and within any and all communities throughout this nation. Again, this problem is not limited to Calumet City.

Whereas most Cities have no idea how to fix the problem, Calumet City has a plan which includes the implementation of the *No-Cash Bid (NCB) Program*. The Cook County No Cash Bid Program is an economic development tool designed to assist municipalities, and other taxing districts, in acquiring tax delinquent properties for reuse as private development and tax reactivation or for tax exempt municipal use. Ultimately, this is a program that allows the City to take control of abandoned, tax delinquent properties for development purposes - and the City's acquisition includes the elimination of all back taxes.

The process gives developers an incentive to move forward without the burden of hundreds of thousands of dollars in previous property tax liabilities incurred by previous property owners. Thus, the City has established a **No-Cash Bid Task Force** which includes finance, legal, engineering, economic development, public works, building and zoning, and other professionals in partnership with Cook County to acquire such properties. Bringing these properties under the control of Calumet City, economic development becomes swifter, easier, and sustainable – more jobs and more property and sales tax revenue.

GRANTS UPDATE



Since the Jones administration began about a year and a half ago, the City has secured nearly \$50 million in grant moneys for an array of projects including: repairs and maintenance of public infrastructures (streets, lights, curbs, gutters, water and sewer, alleys, etc.); social service programs for seniors and youth; public safety (police and fire); open space, parks and recreation; transportation and bus facilities; energy efficiency; environmental remediation; flood mitigation; green infrastructure technology; residential property rehabilitation; Library; comprehensive planning; and more. However, to highlight just a few, note the following:

- Over \$2 million - hiring of new cops
- \$500,000 - police and fire communications equipment
- \$66,000 – police de-escalation training
- \$275,000 - fire department safety equipment
- \$840,000 for youth development and youth violence prevention
- \$4 million - Burnham Avenue Improvements
- \$500,000 – Green Alley construction program
- \$8.88 million – Blues Water Run park and outdoor venue construction
- \$850,000 Dolton Road Inter-change planning for expansion
- \$4.4 million – Riverside Drive improvements
- \$300,000 – multi-use trails near River Oaks Mall
- Over \$6 million – State Street infrastructure improvements

PLANS AND STUDIES



In order to obtain the significant amount of competitive grant funding the City receives; the City has built its capacity to compete for funding because of the various plans and studies (the City has prepared) to accompany grant applications. Comprehensive plans and studies show funding agencies the City's capacity to facilitate proposed scopes of work systematically and professionally, and demonstrates the city staff know how to proceed with project implementation and program management.

A comprehensive plan (also called a master plan or comprehensive development plan) is a document which establishes an overall strategy and recommended actions relevant to the current and future needs of the City. The comprehensive plan also presents a vision for the future with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the City (residents and business owners). Studies and plans are approved by the City Council either by motion or resolution.

Grant-related projects (as well as other development efforts) mirror the objectives of these plans – as the City is serious about its planning initiatives and organizing ideas into actionable steps as funding becomes available. Fortunately, the City has received grant funding and other outside resources for nearly all planning and study initiatives.

The following are just some of the plans and studies that have been recently completed or now underway:

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – River Oaks Drive
- Dolton/I-94 exchange expansion
- Forsythe Drive housing study
- Levee evaluations for flooding partnerships with US Army Corp of Engineers and Village of Lansing
- City-wide comprehensive plan
- Hazardous Mitigation Plan – annexation to Cook County
- State Street Plan DSIR (Dolton Road/State Street Industrial Region)

- River Oaks Shopping Center – a re-imagining
- Minority Inclusion Plan
- Complete Streets
- Burnham Corridor Plan
- Subarea Planning Pulaski Road
- Green infrastructure report
- Flood risk management
- And more

CALUMET CITY'S COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)



The City has one of the best CRS ratings in the state of Illinois. The City received acknowledgment and recognition from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for this spectacular achievement. Calumet City has a CRS class 5 rating – which means residents and business owners can receive up to 25% Flood Insurance Discount upon request from their insurance agencies. It also means that Calumet City has done its best to help alleviate and mitigate flooding and ponding caused by heavy rains and melting snow as well as the implementation of flood management.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum NFIP standards. Any community fully compliant with NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS.

The City voluntarily joined to ensure its residents and business owners would receive monetary relief for flood insurance. Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Calumet City was recognized by FEMA (plaque presentation) in May 2022 for this outstanding achievement.

REACTIVATION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Mayor Jones has charged the City's Community and Economic Development Department (CED) with working alongside of the Calumet City Chamber of Commerce and its reactivation to serve businesses more effectively. The new partnership began Fall 2022 and the Chamber will be up and running with new board members added - beginning January 2023. The Chamber's purpose is to help further the interests of both large and small businesses in the community. The Chamber's mission includes creating an environment in which businesses can prosper and promote and improve local business possibilities.

So businesses may ask - *What does a Chamber of Commerce do and why should you join one?*
The best way to spread the word about your business is by making connections. Whether you're new to Calumet City or a veteran company that has been around for decades, your reputation grows as you engage with other entities within the community. That's why so many businesses choose to join the Chamber. It is, indeed, a resourceful organization that will help City businesses thrive - from building a brand's presence to increasing sales, membership will foster your company growth. In partnership with the Chamber, the City has helped to establish membership incentives for those that join within an identified time frame.

There are other great reasons to join the Chamber including - making business contacts, receiving chamber newsletters/texts/emails/etc., regarding timely information and business updates, acquiring customer referrals, bringing credibility to businesses, access to funding programs and lending opportunities, increasing visibility with the community and the region, networking opportunities including business to business, gaining voice in government, and much more.

The History of Chambers of Commerce are absolutely fascinating. The earliest in the United States came about on April 22, 1912. They named it the US Chamber of Commerce, and it still exists today. Yet it's not the oldest. The first Chamber ever created was established in 1599 in Marseille, France. Its purpose was to gather merchants, industrialists, traders, and craftsmen to discuss and tackle community challenges. Then the Chamber of Commerce was a place of unity, even among competitors.

Their voice soon became a persuasive power amidst public authorities and the community. So much so, that more would pop up throughout the centuries, and even throughout the world. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is 121 years old as of April 22, 2023, and it's still serving as a spearhead which focuses on protecting the interests of American businesses. Yet numerous smaller chambers have cropped up throughout the nation as a voice for local area businesses – like Calumet City. Their purpose is the same, just on a smaller scale.

In summary, the Chamber offers in-person network of talent and resources near actual business locations; and gives businesses the power of a united voice in addition to opportunities to learn, grow, and connect as business owners and community members. It's the best resource available for business sustainability.

REACTIVATION OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)



Calumet City's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) had been dormant for a number of years because of the COVID pandemic and limited resources; and many residents and businesses were placed on hold regarding their requests for zoning changes. The mission of the ZBA is to aid the public in considering all rezoning appeals pertaining to land uses within the City's corporate boundaries. The ZBA's first concern is the interest of the public when determining zoning requests, whether it be the applicant's

views or that of the objectors, and to make recommendations to the City Council their decisions and findings for consideration.

The ZBA reviews land use issues that pertain to the Calumet City Zoning Ordinances as interpreted by the Department of Building and Zoning, including proposed variations from the zoning code, special uses that require review to determine compatibility with adjacent properties, and appeals of decisions made by the Department of Building and Zoning. Below is an excerpt from the Calumet City Municipal Code regarding the ZBA:

“The ZBA of Calumet City, which has been duly created by the Mayor and City Council, shall have the authority, responsibility and duties as set forth herein.

13.1 Jurisdiction.

- To hear and report findings and recommendations to the mayor and city council on all applications for amendments and special use permits in the manner prescribed by standards and other regulations set forth herein;*
- To initiate, direct and review, from time to time, studies of the provisions of the ordinance, and to make reports of its recommendations to the mayor and the city council not less frequently than once each year; and*
- To hear and decide all matters upon which it is required to pass under this ordinance.”*

CRIME-FREE HOUSING PROGRAM UPDATES



Mayor Jones has updated the crime-free housing program to make it bigger, better, safer, and more efficient to help ensure the safety of owners and renters. The **Calumet City Crime Free Rental Housing Program** is designed to help residents, owners, and managers of rental units keep drugs and other illegal activity off their properties. It emphasizes cooperation among property owners, tenants, and the City of Calumet City to help neighborhoods fight crime and disorder.

Although the program was established in Calumet City during 2010, it was updated in 2022 to take a more hands-on approach to emphasize the prevention of criminal activity from taking place on property including criminals who may reside on the property or as a friend of a resident.

The program requires landlords to: obtain an annual license under the program; attend a training seminar conducted by Calumet City Police Department; and add the Crime Free Housing Lease Addendum on their tenants' leases. These are requirements that help build a coalition between the property owners/managers, Department of Building and Zoning, and the Police Department.

The program is nationally recognized as an effective way to reduce crime in rental properties. It utilizes a unique, three-part approach which ensures crime prevention goals while maintaining a resident-friendly approach. Crime Free Housing in Calumet City covers all residential rental units including apartments, single-family homes, individual condominiums, and townhomes within the City's corporate boundaries.

Within the Chicagoland region, Calumet City was one of the first municipalities (and currently one of the very few) to officially adopt the Crime-Free Rental Housing Program. It was first developed in Mesa, Arizona, in 1992 to assist tenants, owners, and managers of rental properties in keeping drugs and other criminal activity away from their rental properties. Since its inception, the program has been implemented in: 2,000 cities in 44 states (very few in comparison to the over 108,000 cities and towns located within all 50 states); 5 Canadian provinces; Mexico; England; Finland; Russia; Japan; Malaysia; Nigeria; Afghanistan; and Puerto Rico.

Since the City's implementation of program updates and fine-tuning the process, the benefits of Crime Free Housing have proven to be astounding with: a stable, more satisfied tenant base; increased demand for rental units; lower maintenance and repair costs; increased property values; improved personal safety for tenants, owners, and managers; peace of mind that comes when spending more time on routine management and less time on crisis control; and fewer requests for police service.

BUILDING AND ZONING

The Department of Building and Zoning (formerly known as Inspectional Services) has evolved into a world-class operation for the coordination of services regarding the building, housing, and fire prevention bureau. The Department provides a more efficient handling of inspection and procedures for new construction, remodeling, rental occupancies, complaints relating to property conditions, flood plain issues, and zoning. The Department has added additional staff to ensure efficiency and timeliness of inspection work efforts and administrative processing.



PROCHAMPS

One of Mayor Jones most significant accomplishments is introducing the PROCHAMPS program to the City administration. The Building and Zoning Department has taken on the task to facilitate PROCHAMPS to promote neighborhood health, safety, and welfare through property registration of abandoned properties. What the City's partnership with PROCHAMPS does is: holds responsible parties accountable to register property with multiple points of contact and with real people; and provides a web-based communications platform facilitating direct communication with property managers. The Department staff work with a team of PROCHAMPS professionals assigned to Calumet City assuring results on the City's behalf and there are zero costs to the City!

Community Rating Service (CRS): Class 5 Rating

Discussed previously was the process by which Calumet City obtained its Class 5 CRS rating that reduces flood insurance for residents and businesses for as much as 25%. However, it must be noted that within the Jones Administration, the Department of Building and Zoning implements the heavy lifting for this accomplishment because of staff knowledge and experience of what is required to achieve success. Therefore, throughout the year, Building and Zoning implements work efforts that address the three goals of the program: reducing and avoiding flood damage to insurable property;

strengthening and supporting the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and fostering comprehensive floodplain management – all in conjunction with Community and Economic Development, Public Works, Engineering, and Fire Department. Building and Zoning work efforts are tedious and systematic in order to meet the quarterly benchmarks and yearly requirements of the program.

Demolitions of Abandoned Properties

Mayor Jones has made a commitment to acquiring abandoned properties to market for reuse and demolishing those that are beyond repair and hazardous to the community. The Department of Building and Zoning implements all aspects of the process for demolition including working with legal to secure demolition orders from the court system – as well as implementing the Request for Proposals from demolition contractors. The effort is systematic and timely from the time the demolition decision has been made by City Administration and City Council. The process of addressing abandoned properties within the realm of demolition can be accomplished with or without the City’s ownership. The courts can deem property a hazardous to the community and order demolition. This provides open space/ green space on demolished sites that are not large enough for newly constructed structures – as open/ green spaces help to alleviate flooding and ponding within neighborhoods.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER’S PROGRAM

The City is working with a single-family home developer to acquire abandoned, tax delinquent residential properties for the purpose of rehabilitation and sale to first-time homebuyers who choose to buy homes in Calumet City. Benefits of the program include low-down payments and the program will work with buyers relative to credit issues and concerns. And loan limits on these loans may be lower than a conventional mortgage. There are five perks of being a first-time home buyer: reaping the benefits of a first-time homebuyer program - many first-time homebuyers are weary to commit to a mortgage and the responsibility of owning a home; tax benefits; predictable monthly payments; owning an asset that can appreciate; and some feel homes are assets to help secure retirement. It’s a wonderful opportunity to eliminate abandoned, blighted properties and convey revitalized, new homes to deserving residents.

It’s also important to convey, that through the No-Cash Bid process discussed earlier, the City is seeking to facilitate its First-Time Homebuyer’s program itself. Program particulars are being developed as the City secures tax delinquent, abandoned residential properties for rehabilitation to be sold to new homeowners.

PLANNING/ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION - PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A significant number of engineering projects are in progress in 2022 to improve the City’s public infrastructure that has a direct impact on residents’ quality of life and the sustainability of the business community. The City’s public infrastructure refers to facilities, systems, and structures that are

developed, owned, and operated by the government (governments in this regard include the City, County, and State infrastructures). This means all infrastructure facilities that are open to the general public for use. Examples of public infrastructure include transportation systems (streets, sidewalks, bike paths, gutters, stop lights, etc.), sewer and water, lighting, and more.

The City is proud that nearly 75% of public infrastructure projects (including engineering design requirements) are funded by County, State, and Federal grant resources. Some of the projects completed and underway to date are:

- Alley paving utilizing state of the art “green infrastructure” to help alleviate flooding
- Completion of master plan that re-imagines River Oaks Mall
- Buffalo Avenue (Memorial Drive to Pulaski Road) reconstruction
- Pulaski Road (Burnham Avenue to Michigan City Road) resurfacing
- Dolton Road/State Street/Pulaski Road – transportation improvements
- Burnham Avenue – resurfacing
- Burnham Avenue - streetscaping
- River Oaks Drive – resurfacing
- Blues Water Run – open space design and construction
- Feasibility Study – Dolton/I-94 interchange expansion
- Michigan City Road & River Oaks Center along Little Calumet River – engineering planning for ultimate construction of multi-use path
- Levee System along Little Calumet River – flood mitigation in partnership with US Army Corp of Engineering and Village of Lansing
- Improvements to Public Works elevated tank
- Reconstruction of pumps in water pump house
- Partnership with PACE Bus for construction of south suburban bus facility on Ring Road
- Partnership with MWRD and CMAP regarding Subarea planning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Calumet City Fire Department (CCFD) exists to provide a safe environment for the community by minimizing the impact of fire and injury through public education, quality service, emergency preparedness, and an overall culture of safety. The mission of the Fire Department is to protect lives, property, and the environment by helping to improve the quality of life and safety of the community. As first responders to fires, public safety, and medical emergencies, and disasters; CCFD protects the lives and property of Calumet City residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Department currently has over 50 career fire personnel including the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, six Captains, three Lieutenants, nine Engineers, and 30 Firefighters. All members are also paramedics operating under the guidance of the Ingalls Hospital Emergency Medical Services System. Many members also participate in specialty rescue teams including, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Dive Teams.

The Department is a member of Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 24 and the Third Fire District, which consists of 22 municipalities. These departments along with others provide mutual aid to Calumet City in the event of large incidents. The Village of South Holland, Village of Dolton and Village of Lansing Fire Departments provide automatic-aid on structure fires. The department runs approximately 8000 calls per year out of two stations.

The Department advances public safety through its fire prevention, investigation, and education programs. The timely delivery of these services enables the CCFD to make significant contributions to safety. Members of the Department are trained for an all-hazards emergency response and respond to all major events such as ice storms, snow storms, major electrical outages, floods, and any other emergent need from homeowners in the community. Members of the Department do much more than just respond to emergencies and fires – they are friends and fire prevention educators to the community.

However, although the Calumet City Fire Department has exceptional experience with the latest equipment and technology - and deemed and one of the best fire-fighting agencies in the region; residents of the Park of River Oaks Condominiums suffered an accidental horrific, tragic fire during the Memorial Day weekend of May 2022. The Mayor, elected officials, and the entire City Administration were heartbroken and absolutely distraught over the loss of an 85-year old resident, Wilhelmina Williamson - as well as the displacement of over 150 families.

It was an absolutely dreadful and awful day – as all steps were taken to minimize the loss of life. Not only were fire fighters battling intense wind, but the building had limited sprinklers, as it was built before those were required.

The Fire Department coordinated a massive response at the building, with several dozen fire trucks on the scene with hundreds of fire fighters from all over the region. And, the Mayor called in all resources applicable from the County, State, and Federal governments to address the needs of residents – as well as utilizing City resources to accommodate those displaced, provide food, and monetary support in the form of gift cards and other resources. The entire City Administration mobilized to assist in every way possible.

Mayor Jones and his Administration continues its approval for training and hiring of new fire fighters to ensure the readiness, quickness, and efficiency of addressing emergencies in addition to investing \$2.6 million in new equipment. The Department also received \$500,000 grant for radio equipment to be shared with both police and fire public safety as well as a couple of hundred thousand in grants for other fire-fighting equipment. The City also completed the construction of a three-story training tower located at the City's Safety Training Center on State Street. The Park Condominium fire was beyond tragic, but could have been much worse if it were not for the leadership of the Jones administration and the readiness and training of its Fire Department.



FEMA

CALUMET CITY RECEIVES WELL OVER \$1.8 MILLION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES

A big congratulations to Calumet City's Fire Department and its efforts to obtain \$1,806,870.00 in grant moneys for the hiring of additional fire fighters. Specifically, funding comes from the US Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – a program referred to as SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response).

The administration is exceptionally proud to have been chosen for this extremely competitive award program. SAFER was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards.

Calumet City's Fire Department is one of the best in the region, and this is proven by the US Department of Homeland Security's willingness to invest in this Administration.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Calumet City Police Department is one of the best public safety agencies in the Chicagoland region. The defining factor is a municipal law enforcement agency of officers representing the civil authority of the Calumet City government and responsible for maintaining public order and safety, enforcing the law, and preventing, detecting, and investigation criminal activities. **HOWEVER**, the Department is so much more! Police officers understand this community and have in place procedures for self-monitoring.

This involves reviewing and learning from critical incidents, such as shootings or use of force incidents, to determine if there are ways to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. With these efforts, nearly 90% of probable incidents have been averted.

Within the past year or so, the Department has received over \$3.1 million in grant money from the US Department of Justice COPS program for the hiring of police officers. An unbelievable amount awarded to a single community the size of Calumet City in such a short period of time. And, the City has received hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding for de-escalation programming and the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that also allows for regional communications.

As a good police administration, work efforts involve making ethical and lawful decisions relating to the hiring, management, retention, discipline, and termination of law enforcement personnel. All of this requires accountability, both internal and external. When it comes to public safety, Calumet City's accountability means: being responsible for your actions (*Respect*); treating others as you would want to be treated (*Integrity*); always doing the right thing (*Service*); and working to meet the community's needs. It means to **serve and protect**.

Police Department officers are required to have the following qualities and skills: physical fitness; critical thinking; sound judgement; problem-solving skills; communication skills; interpersonal skills; strong moral character; and sense of ethics. In addition, the Department ensures ongoing community relations through its community policing, transparency, and data. The programs are designed to encourage conversation, education, and participation with residents and business owners. Some of the nationally standardized programs such as Coffee and Donuts with a Cop and National Night Out have been extremely successful in Calumet City and allows opportunities for personal community engagement with officers rank and file. The Mayor and City Administration understand and are heartfelt because of recent tragedies within the community, but residents and business owners must be assured of the City's commitment to their safety.

Some of the major policing programs are as follows:

- **Community Policing** – it's the City's philosophy to promote public safety strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues and concerns - such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. In its simplest form, Calumet City's community policing creates a partnership between law enforcement and residents and business owners. Calumet City's police officers strive to be more involved with the residents they are sworn to protect. This promotes more residents and the community as a whole to help law enforcement achieve these goals.

So, this means Calumet City's police officers are more visible inside and outside their police vehicles throughout every neighborhood and commercial corridor within the City – mainly visible outside police vehicles.

- **De-Escalation** – All Calumet City police officers attended and completed de-escalation training to minimize concerns, issues, or even tragedies when doing calls for service. Training is designed to help officers learn how to effectively manage and respond to difficult situations. The goal of this type of training is to help public safety personnel learn how to defuse tense situations, while also maintaining their own safety and the safety of others. There are four principles of law enforcement de-escalation for which Calumet City police officers facilitate each and every day: ensuring citizen contact procedures are legitimate and based on respect; ensuring your officers know their legal limitations prior to engaging the public; appreciating that to influence a person, you need to understand their perspective and purpose; and not presuming what makes sense to you makes sense to others.

De-escalation is viewed holistically by the Department. De-escalation includes aspects of communication, but it is also important to recognize the role that community engagement and procedural justice play in ensuring police encounters that are safe for everyone.

In addition to what's been previously discussed, other specific community policing initiatives, technology, training, and recruitment/hiring updates are noted below:

Community Policing Initiatives

- Police cadet programming which provides structured training and education for high-school aged youth.
- Established bike patrol unit under community policing initiatives whereby certification training is required.
- Officers trained in the use of ATVs deployed city wide and at community events.

Technology

- Implementation of body-worn camera program.
- Added seven new pole camera locations throughout the City.
- Added additional license plate readers to enhance investigative and enforcement efforts.

Training

- All officers completed immediate trauma care training and all police vehicles are equipped with trauma care bags.
- All officers completed “Narcan” administrative training – “Narcan” has been issued to each officer accordingly.
- All officers completed rapid deployment tactical training.

Recruitment and Hiring

- Creation of recruitment committee to promote police department and seek quality police candidates.
- Hired 13 new police officers during 2022; and 6 additional police officers scheduled to be hired first of the year 2023 as a result of the COPS Hiring Grant.

Other

- Established a Police K9 program
- Established and conducted the first annual *Police Awards Ceremony* where officers are honored for achievements and dedication to the City of Calumet City.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



The Mayor has determined it's very difficult to specifically define the Department of Public Works (it's one of the City's premiere departments) – and its ever-evolving to meet the specific needs of seniors, residents, and business owners. Public Works is a part of the City's public safety team along with Police and Fire. However, experts say that when it comes to public works, one size definitely does not fit all, so defining the term becomes problematic. Because of the Mayor's multi-faceted public works department, the following description seems appropriate:

Calumet City Public Works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for the City Administration to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and improvements to quality of life for its citizens.

In addition to the day-to-day efforts of keeping the City's public spaces clean and accessible as well as the upkeep of landscape; the following are some other programs that positively impact residents directly and are exceptionally notable:

- Snow removal on private property for senior citizens that qualify.
- Leaf pick-up program for all residents that begins on or around October 31st and ends on December 2nd of each year.
- Adding 500 speed bumps throughout the City to help slow down speeding within the neighborhoods.
- Managing the City's pilot green ally program to help alleviate flooding and ponding in residential alleys.
- Providing the manpower and coordinating the infrastructure to prepare for the City's yearly tree-lighting event.

- Completed (and with ongoing effort) several hundred full-property clean-ups of abandoned structures and neglected abandoned lots – clearing debris and overgrowth, and maintaining regular grass cutting schedules for same property locations.
- Cut down hundreds of dead and dying trees throughout the City – whether on public or private properties
- Graded over 175 alleys within a 12 month period.

Just some of the work being done by the City's Public Works Department to make the lives of residents and business owners/operators better!

BUSINESS LICENSES

Why you need a business license in Calumet City? A business license is a City of Calumet City government document that confirms that a company is safe for the public to patronize. The kind of licenses needed is determined by the type of business and where it is located within Calumet City. Business licenses hold companies' accountable for their activities and behavior and protect the public's health and safety.

Acquiring a license to do business can be quite advantageous when running a company. Once a business license is obtained, there are advantages and privileges – as some are described below:

- **Businesses Are Legally Safeguarded.** When a business is licensed, it is ensured that the business owner's structure, strategies, and methods follow City requirements – and the business is safeguarded unless the scope of work is deviated. In contrast, one cannot be certain of any of these things if a business license is not acquired. The City requires all businesses to be licensed by law. Simply, this means having a license will safeguard you from being shut down for operating an unauthorized business.
- **Lowens Risk for Both Parties.** Regardless of who is involved in the organization, business licensing mitigates all of the risks associated with doing business for everyone involved. From a business owner's standpoint, there are very few risks in product creation, distribution, etc. Similarly, risks such as selling and servicing what is being given can be included for licensor. However, when neither party has a business license, both parties are in danger. On the other hand, business licensing ensures that both the licensee and the licensor are legally protected.

The City has moved the business license process into the virtual world as the application can now be submitted through the City's website – hard copies are no longer accepted. It's a smooth and simple process. Businesses should provide the following documentation with their applications:

- Business Owner Valid Photo ID
- Emergency Contact Valid Photo ID
- Illinois Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing
- Copy of Signed, Current Lease Agreement
- Copy of Certificate of Insurance
- Any other required certificates or licenses (e.g., barbershop, beautician, etc.)

It's important to note, again, that no business is authorized to operate in Calumet City until a business license has been issued by the City.

Visit the Calumet City Website to learn **How to Open and Operate a Business in Calumet City** and then proceed to become a member of the **Calumet City Chamber of Commerce**.



CLOSING REMARKS FROM MAYOR THADDEUS M. JONES

I would like to begin by thanking all of you – the Calumet City, City Council, Staff, Consultants, and those that we have the honor and pleasure to serve - which are the members of the Calumet City community (residents and businesses). It is my sincerest and greatest honor to serve this community and work alongside folks that love Calumet City as much as I do. Together we will continue to strive for excellence and move forward with ideas and plans to ensure the safety, security, and enhanced quality of life for all members of this community.

May God Bless each and everyone of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thaddeus Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thaddeus M. Jones