

**CBS RADIO GROUP**  
**ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT**  
  
**FOR**  
  
**STATION WXRT-FM HD2**  
  
**FOURTH QUARTER, 2015**  
**OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31**

Prepared by:

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**ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CHICAGO  
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE  
FOURTH QUARTER 2015**

1. School Reform and Education: Efforts to improve student performance and achievement, making sure teachers are performing well in the classroom and general educational issues in Chicago and suburbs.
2. Business and Job Development: Creating an economic climate that supports small business and entrepreneurs. Provide assistance to develop new businesses and jobs in distressed economic areas.
3. Crime and Violence: Support of community policing efforts in Chicago, efforts to reduce gang activity and the spread of gangs into the suburbs, ensuring that the police department operates legally and with respect the communities it serves.
4. Transportation: Maintenance, improvement and safety of Chicago's transportation system, including the airports, commuter rail service, and highway development.
5. Neighborhood and Suburban Development: Efforts within the City of Chicago to promote neighborhood cohesion, economic opportunities and housing. Infrastructure concerns.
6. Health Care: Providing adequate facilities for health care, particularly indigent care; providing affordable health care and access to services.
7. Voter Information: Helping voters make personal election decisions by giving insights into those that are running for offices in upcoming elections.

**WXRT-FM  
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES**

1. At Issue: (Saturdays from 6a-6:30a, except for October 17 and November 21, and Sundays from 7a-7:30a. Duration: 30:00)  
Locally produced interview show featuring top newsmakers discussing state and community issues.
  
2. WXRT Public Affairs Show: (Saturdays from 6a-6:30a on October 17 and November 21. Duration: 30:00)  
Locally produced interview show featuring newsmakers and local charitable events in the Chicagoland area.

## I. SCHOOL REFORM AND EDUCATION

At Issue

October 25, 2015

Guest: Cheryl Hyman, Chancellor for the City Colleges of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

City Colleges of Chicago has been the target of critics who've suggested the system's graduation rates have been inflated. Cheryl Hyman is the Chancellor for the City Colleges of Chicago. Hyman said graduation rates are based on strict federal guidelines. She said they can only count first-time, full-time students. She said that was the case when the graduation rate was at seven percent when she first started as Chancellor and now when it's at a record high 17 percent. She said the city colleges are participating in a movement to reform the way community colleges issue credentials to students who have earned them. She said they are performing audits to help students determine whether they have earned enough credits to receive a degree. Before now, she said, it was up to students alone to determine whether or not they had enough credits to graduate. She said that includes students who earned a degree but left the city college system before getting that degree. Hyman said it is irresponsible for an institution to not seek out and award degrees to students who have met the requirements. She called it irresponsible because of the increased earning potential a college degree brings. She also addressed reports that degrees were awarded to the deceased. That happened three times over the last five years, she said, at the request of the families of the deceased students. She stressed that none of those counted towards the system's graduation rate. Hyman also talked out City College's role in the national movement to reform higher education, partnering with several four-year colleges in a program called a "reserve transfer." She said students who transfer to another college or university before completing their degree can still earn an associate's degree. The schools also have partnered with 150 industries on the College to Career program. Hyman said 3,000 students have been hired under the program to date. The City Colleges system is working to track not only the students' career paths but also whether they're retained by employers. She said the program evolves with the demand for certain types of workers. In the next ten years she sees the demand increasing for qualified candidates in sectors such as internet technology, health care, advanced manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics, education, national sciences and business professional services. Hyman said City Colleges of Chicago has added 22 new programs to produce workers for these jobs. Additionally, she said after a significant review, 44 other such programs were dropped because they were no longer relevant. Asked about funding, Hyman said they were in the process of building a new career center that was due to open in January. But she said the state put

construction on hold due to the current budget impasse. She said 60 million dollars is hanging in the balance because the budget crisis is costing City Colleges \$200 Thousand a day, adding that City Colleges has been a good financial steward, saving \$10 million through its funding of the STAR scholarship. The scholarship programs gives graduates from Chicago Public Schools with a 3.0 GPA who test completion-ready in math and English free tuition in pursuit of an associate's degree.

#### At Issue

November 29, 2015

Guests: Roger Eddy, Exec. Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards  
Jason Leahy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Principals.  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

There has been much discussion about the Illinois state budget impasse and its impact on Chicago Public Schools, but this program looked at the impact on suburban and downstate school systems. Roger Eddy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards referenced a policy document called Vision 20/20 made up of solutions created by teachers and educators to improve public schools. Despite the lack of a budget, lawmakers did agree to measures to keep public schools open. Jason Leahy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Principals, said the uncertainty of school funding has been going on for decades. He said while the budget impasse isn't unfamiliar territory, there is a long-term concern. Eddy said there was a huge sigh of relief when downstate schools were able to open last August. But he said the projected spending rate is well beyond projected revenue. Schools are funded through property taxes and Eddy said if the state fails to fund schools, local districts will be forced to hike taxes for property owners. Leahy said Vision 20/20 addresses the need to base school funding on a "modern" economy. He said Illinois is no longer an industrial economy but a service economy. Eddy said there must be serious conversation about the state funding formula to ensure state aid goes to school districts that need it most. He said what's needed is a system providing both adequacy and equality. Eddy said there has to be a balance between funding and mandates, plus flexibility in providing services to students so school districts can independently discover best ways to spend and save money. On the topic of pensions, Eddy said 20 years ago there was a major discussion about pensions and how to reform Chicago Public Schools. He said if the state is going to pick up the costs for one school system, they should do so for all. But the issue, he said, is finding the money. Vision 20/20 also urges to hire more minority teachers and staff. Leahy said it only benefits the schools and the students they serve to have more diversity. He said CPS used to have a 30 percent diversity rate. He said that's now 10 percent, noting that hiring practices are not moving in the right direction. Eddy said one reason is because the profession is not admired anymore. He said more and more, teachers are under scrutiny and a career path in education isn't as attractive. There also are new tests applicants must pass, and perhaps those are keeping many minority candidates out. Student performance is the main way of gauging teacher performance. But Leahy said kids are more than test scores. He said there is a new measure that holds schools accountable for student performance but also looks at student growth, efficiency levels and how schools close achievement gaps. There is also a new program called "I Tunes U." Eddy said this

partnership with Apple is meant to bring the best teachers together to curate online digital content. The program just launched at the start of the school year.

## II. BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

November 8, 2015

Guest: Carol Portman, President of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Who is caught in the middle of Illinois' budget impasse? Taxpayers, of course. Carol Portman, President of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois, discussed the ongoing financial crisis in the state. She said state and local governmental bodies continue to spend more money than they take in. She said the state is spending as much as 90 percent of what it spent last year through court orders and mandates, yet far less money is coming in because of a drop in the income tax rate. The budget impasse is causing serious problems for social service groups. Portman said there hasn't been the outcry you would expect because the state already had been so slow to pay bills. The service providers and businesses that rely on state funding are only now starting to go without reimbursements. She said there may be long term issues that lawmakers may not be thinking about. Service providers may have to lay off employees. The people who need service may find new providers, leaving long term providers struggling to get back on track. She called an income tax increase inevitable for individuals and businesses. And she said spending cuts will be needed, along with possible compromise on workman's compensation issues. Portman said she isn't hopeful a resolution will be found soon as legislators and Governor Rauner continue to push different agendas. She said the state's rate is relatively low and could be raised without becoming uncompetitive. Portman pointed out the City of Chicago took the step needed to generate revenue by raising property taxes. She also said Chicago's property tax rate is the lowest in the state. She did say the city's idea to increase the homestead exemption is not a good idea. Right now the State of Illinois picks up the teacher pension costs for communities outside of Chicago. Mayor Emanuel wants that to change. Portman said there is a disparity in the way pensions are paid. She said there has been movement in Springfield to put the burden on local school districts to pay their own pensions. But she said Chicago does get other benefits from the state that most local communities don't. She ended by saying with the right plan and reasonable projections the city and the state can get their financial houses in order.

At Issue

November 15, 2015

Guest: Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board.  
17 minutes out of 30 minute program

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said the \$4.5 billion 2016 budget features cuts, a sales tax increase and new taxes on hotel rooms and ammunition. She said all government executives are in tough positions in this economic climate. She said the county has three structural problems: pension liability, legacy debt liabilities and a need to use gas tax revenue for roads and infrastructure. She said the county is obligated to balance its budget and has done so the last five years by cutting \$450 million. She said this year the cuts amount to \$110 million, including what she called dramatic financial reductions in the health care system. She said 63 percent of the county's money goes to health care and public safety. But she said there are been few cuts on the public safety side, but this go-round there will be more. For revenue, the county in part is turning to a hospitality tax—an extra dollar a night for hotel stays. She called it a modest tax and said it won't keep visitors from coming to Chicago. She said she would have preferred to raise property taxes but the support among the commissioners was not there. Preckwinkle also talked about the one percent sales tax hike approved to pay for pensions, pay off debt service and pay for roads and bridge infrastructure. She said there is an agreement with the unions on pay increases and delays in retirement. She said she is hopeful about getting more assistance from the state to help pay down the county's unfunded pension obligations. She hopes a state budget will be in place by early next year. Preckwinkle was asked about how much the state's budget impasse has impacted the county. She said because the state has not been distributing money collected for the county such as the gas tax, Illinois owes the county \$77 million. She said the county has a cushion to cover the missing funds but not all local governments do.

### **III. CRIME AND VIOLENCE**

At Issue

October 11, 2015

Guest: Donna More, candidate for Cook County State's Attorney.  
15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Donna More is one of two candidates challenging the incumbent Cook County State's Attorney in this election season. She is a lawyer with experience as an Assistant U-S Attorney and Assistant State's Attorney with expertise in the gaming industry. This is her first run at public office. When asked why she is running, she said she is angry about the current level of violence in the Chicago area. She said she is a parent and rejects the environment in which some kids are growing up and she said she is in a position to help fix the criminal justice system. More said the current State's Attorney has been absent for the last seven years and accused her of making decisions based on influence instead of evidence. She also said her other opponent in the campaign is politically beholden to the Cook County Board President. She said she would make the State's Attorney's office better by

collaborating with the community to reduce gun violence. She said the finger pointing has to stop and that teachers, preachers, police and business owners all need to share information toward getting people to come forward about crime and get guns off the streets. More said she is not an advocate for mandatory minimum sentencing. Instead, she said she would rather have a centralized, citywide preliminary gun court where judges and prosecutors review cases together and begin separating the career offenders from those who may have just made a mistake. More also said she believes violence could be reduced through legislation, especially through regulation of gun shows and the secondary transfer of guns. The Cook County Board President has said there are too many people in prison for minor drug offenses. Others think the system is soft on crime. More says she believes about a third of low level offenders will be dismissed by the state, but only after those offenders spend at 25 days in prison. She said a better review process is needed for these cases. She said the money spent housing and processing low level drug offenders could instead be used to help them overcome drug addiction.

At Issue

November 15, 2015

Guest: Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board.

13 minutes out of 30 minute program

Cook County Board President Preckwinkle addressed Chicago's and Cook County's violence issue. Violence in the neighborhoods, she said, is difficult to address. She said that's one reason she brought back the proposal to raise the tax on ammunition. She said that money will go toward public safety. While some gun supporters say gun owners will go to another state to purchase their bullets, Preckwinkle said the tax is expected to raise \$300,000. She admitted that's not a lot, but like the tax on cigarettes, she says it's necessary to deter people and attempt to reduce violence through anti-violence grants. Preckwinkle then talked about criminal justice reform, saying there has been progress. She said the jail population had been hovering around 10,000 five years ago, but the number now sits at 8,200, the lowest since 1991. She credited a focus on the criminal justice system and racial disparities embedded in the system. She said there has been a concerted effort to dispose of cases involving nonviolent crimes. She hopes eventually to lower the county jail population to 6-thousand inmates

WXRT Public Affairs Show

November 21, 2015

Guest: Asiah Butler, Executive Director of R.A.G.E in Chicago  
30 minutes of 30 minute program

Asiah Butler, Executive Director of RAGE, joined Terri Hemmert to talk about Spike Lee's new film "Chiraq." RAGE is a community organization in Englewood and Asiah talked about the real Englewood, not the one in the film. Asiah discussed what residents are doing to try to take back the neighborhood, take on the gang and gun violence issues, and described how Chicago residents inside the and outside Englewood can get involved and help.

At Issue

December 6, 2015

Guests: Professor Samuel Jones, John Marshall Law School  
Mark Payne, Executive Director CeaseFire Illinois  
Chris Taliaferro, Chicago Alderman 29<sup>th</sup> Ward  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

In October 2014 a 17-year-old was shot and killed by Chicago police. Laquan McDonald was shot 16 times. 13 months after the shooting, a police dash cam video of the incident was released by the City of Chicago by court order. Protests erupted over the video and a protesters-perceived mishandling of the case by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. Charges were brought against the police officer who killed McDonald, but not until more than a year later. The Mayor has created a task force to look at the issues surrounding the shooting and propose action. 29<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Christ Taliaferro, a former Chicago Police sergeant, said the Mayor is doing the right thing but in the wrong way. He took issue with the formation of the task force and the people picked to serve on it. He believes the city council should have been able to review the Mayor's choices before they were picked. Professor Samuel Jones said Chicago faces unique problems and there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to the best practices in policing. He said he supports the task force but it should not substitute for a full-blown investigation of the Chicago Police Department. Mark Payne of Ceasefire Illinois sits on the task force. He said the community can trust it. He said to have an impact on violence people must view things differently. He said CeaseFire Illinois detects violence, interrupts it, and changes the behavior of the community. Jones said the challenge to finding the right balance and controlling street violence should not

include the use of force. He said he believes the majority of police officers strive to do the right thing but the police department is tarnished because of a lack of self-accountability—not properly policing their own ranks. He said they have a duty to treat all Chicago citizens the same. Alderman Taliaferro said officers need proper training on how to approach and handle all situations. He said he would like to see an emphasis on firearms training with an annual qualification in the use of force. Jones wondered out loud why there have been 29,000 complaints of misconduct against the Chicago police officers but only three percent have been disciplined beyond a letter of reprimand. He said African Americans make up a third of the city but are make up 75 percent of those stopped and frisked. Jones said he believes that comes from a culture inside the police department that starts in the Mayor's office. What can Chicago do to tackle gang violence? Alderman Taliaferro said the city needs to put its resources in the right areas. He said the city is spending more than \$100 million in police overtime. Instead, he said, the city should be funding programs that help residents in distressed areas on the west and south sides. He said those areas are under-funded and under-appreciated, something the Mayor needs to address. Professor Jones said the police department needs more cameras on police, body cameras and others, to keep officers accountable.

At Issue

December 13, 2015

Guest: Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was one of the first to recently call for a federal investigation into the shooting death by police of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in October, 2014. She said this case warranted federal intervention because of public reaction to the dash cam video. She said the Department of Justice has the power to investigate police cultures that may be in need of reform. Madigan said many had been hopeful any criminal behavior within the Chicago Police Department was gone following legal sanctions associated with torture allegations against former Commander Jon Burge. She said the Justice Department has credibility due to its independence and resources. The police dash cam video wasn't released in the McDonald case for more than a year. Madigan said there was no reason it should have taken 400 plus days to make the video public after a Freedom of Information Act was filed for its release. Based on what Mayor Emanuel said after the video release, Madigan said either he didn't properly gauge the likely public reaction, or the people he trusted weren't telling him the truth. While the Mayor eventually did say he was sorry, Madigan said people aren't going to believe that until there is change. Madigan said after seeing what happened in Ferguson, Missouri, she thought it was just a matter of time for Chicago. She said the reaction to the shooting death and video was no surprise to her. She said for too long people in minority communities have felt like police are occupiers and mistrust has been long standing. She said there must be meaningful reforms or that mistrust will continue. Madigan said for now, the best hope is to find the right reforms for the police department. As for the calls

for Mayor Emanuel's resignation, she said there are many questions people have about what he knew and when he knew it. But ultimately, she said, there is no way to recall the Mayor. Madigan said there has to be transparency about what happened in the past before any reforms can take hold. She applauds Mayor Emanuel's apology and his welcoming of the Justice Department investigation. Asked whether she eventually intends to run for Chicago Mayor, she said she is focused on being the Illinois Attorney General.

At Issue

December 27, 2015

Guests: Mary Dixon, News Anchor/Co-Host at WXRT,

Mark Grote, Program Host and Sports Journalist at WSCR.

13 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program looked back at the top news of 2015 and the impact on those in and around the Chicago area. Mary Dixon called it a big year for Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He won a second term, but needed the city's first ever mayoral runoff to get there. Then Emanuel had to deal with the city's dire financial conditions and helped pass a property tax increase. And finally, Dixon said the Mayor had to deal with the fallout from the release of dash cam video showing the police shooting death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald along with repeated protests and calls for his resignation. Mark Grote said the McDonald video left people with more questions about what else hasn't been released. WBBM's Political Editor and At Issue Host Craig Dellimore said the protests over the video haven't been like the demonstrations in Ferguson, Missouri because police have been more restrained. Dixon said the story in 2016 will be the outcome of the Department of Justice investigation of the Chicago Police Department, what type of reforms the investigation will produce and how those reforms will be implemented. Grote indicated that citizens' trust in the Police department has been on thin ice for a long time and the firing of the Police Superintendent isn't enough to mend that perception. Dellimore also said we now have more information about police and suspect interactions because of dash cam video, cell phones and police body cams.

#### **IV. TRANSPORTATION**

At Issue

October 4, 2015

Guest: Mary Sue Barrett, President of the Metropolitan Planning Council

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Mary Sue Barrett is President of the Metropolitan Planning Council, an independent group that tries to solve the region's planning and development challenges. Barrett talked about growth issues facing the Chicago area, but said public transportation in the Chicago region serves as a solid backbone from which to build. She said Chicago has worked to encourage more intense development around public transportation. She said that includes the building of new housing, while being careful to include reasonable amounts of new parking. The Metropolitan Planning Council has a helpful transit development calculator that helps show what a development means to the area in terms of tax revenue and retail benefits, just by plugging in an address.

WXRT Public Affairs Show

October 17, 2015

Guest: Ron Burke, Director of the Active Transportation Alliance

30 minutes of 30 minute program

Ron Burke, Director of the Active Transportation Alliance spoke with Terri Hemmert on bicycling in Chicago and how safe, special trails can help positively impact Chicagoans. Ron also talked about recent changes in traffic lanes for bicycles and discussed the economic and environmental benefits to bicycling for commuters. He also talked about ways listeners can get involved with the Alliance and the health benefits for listeners who bike.

At Issue

October 18, 2015

Guest: Don Orseno, Executive Director and CEO of Metra

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

The Metra Rail system handles 150-thousand riders daily and faces a funding shortfall due to a \$946-million budget that is nearly \$136-million smaller than last year. Don Orseno is the Executive Director and CEO of Metra. The first question he was asked is whether commuters will see another fare increase. Orseno said yes. He said the average fare increase this coming year will be around two percent, which is lower than originally forecast. Last year, he said, Metra proposed a 10-year schedule of fare hikes totaling 68 percent, increases intended to cover the cost of a \$2-billion plan to modernize the rail fleet and pay for the federally mandated safety system known as Positive Train Control. He said the new increase will raise about six and a half million dollars in new revenue. But he said even with the increase Metra remains sustainably underfunded. He said he is only expecting a quarter of the promised state and federal funding over the next decade. He said while Metra is keeping up with maintenance, the fact remains that Metra has an old fleet and aging infrastructure. He said commuters need to understand there are

large questions about the availability of future federal and state funding. As for new projects, Orseno says the priority is adding new rail cars, saying some of the current cars are more than 60 years old and the average age of a rail car is nearly 30. He said that lends itself to more equipment failures and more dollars needed for repairs. He said to pay for repairs and upgrades; the agency needs the type of funding stability that comes with a long term transportation bill. He said some Illinois lawmakers understand the importance of public transportation and are working to move a bill forward that benefits Metra, but they haven't been successful so far. Orseno said that's in part due to a credibility problem Metra had following the departure of the former CEO. He did not want to elaborate further. He did say Metra has since worked to repair that credibility with a pledge to look at what type of fare hike they need each year. What about the installation of safety equipment known as Positive Train Control? There was a deadline to get the equipment in place; a deadline he said is no longer possible to meet. Orseno also said there has been no resolution on a new deadline. He said shutting down rail systems around the nation because the required safety measures haven't been put in place, as required by a government deadline, would be catastrophic. He said if Congress can't reach an agreement to solve the deadline issue, Metra will have to shut down at the beginning of the year. He said so far they have earmarked \$134-million for PTC but the price tag could reach \$400-million. On another topic, Orseno said Metra is progressing technologically. He said they are rolling out paperless tickets through a smartphone app. He talked about positive feedback Metra has received, especially because the app eliminates the surcharge commuters have been paying for buying tickets on the train rather than in advance at the train station.

At Issue

November 1, 2015

Guest: Ron Burke, Executive Director of Active Transportation Alliance

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Ron Burke explained the Alliance (ATA) is a non-profit that advocates for better biking, walking and transit in the city and suburbs. He said more people are biking and that means safety is paramount. He said the recent change to standard time has increased safety concerns. Because it gets darker outside earlier, he said bicyclists could be caught off guard. He encouraged cyclists to equip their bikes with proper lighting to ensure motorists can easily see them. The ATA has created a video to show how invisible a cyclist or pedestrian can be to nighttime drivers. Burke said while cycling is growing at a rapid rate--roughly doubling every three to four years--the number of crashes involving bikes and cars are not on the rise. He cited Chicago's protected bike lanes as helping. He also pointed to an increased noticeability due to sheer numbers, plus a more responsible use of streets by cyclists. He also said motorists are more accustomed to sharing the road. Burke said statistics show it's still more dangerous to be in a car than on a bicycle. He also said for pedestrians the protected bike lanes have created a new hazard. Those lanes are right up against the curb and people who are walking step off the curb looking for cars, not bicycles. He said it has been a learning curve for pedestrians. The Alliance

recently released a report called “Bikeways for All,” meant as a blueprint for government use in building protected bike lanes in the city and for adding new trails similar to the 606. Bicycling Magazine named Chicago the number two bike friendly U-S city next to New York. Burke said over the last five years the city has made great progress in improving opportunities for biking, riding and walking, but there’s more to be done before everyone can take advantage. He said some of the challenges include the lack of access to public transportation, distances that are too far to bike or walk, and sometimes the land patterns are too dangerous for people to walk or bike. Burke said there is also an issue of where to safely park a bike.

At Issue

December 20, 2015

Guest: Robert Schillerstrom, Chairman Illinois Toll Highway Authority.

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

The Tollway board recently approved a budget that includes \$1.5 billion worth of capital projects and continues to look ahead to new roads and technology. Schillerstrom said \$1.4 billion of the money is for building new roads and expanding or improving existing roads. He said maintenance of the 286 miles of tollways is a major expense, including the need to fix potholes, remove snow and the locating of vehicles in distress. He said the tollway is paid for by the people who use the tollway. Tolls have gone up a bit, but he said motorists are most concerned about having to wait to pay a toll, rather than the toll amount. He said right now 87 percent of tolls are collected electronically, and they hope to increase that to all toll collections. He said the Elgin/O’Hare tollway will soon be 100-percent about electronic payment. He said those without transponders will be able pay online. Schillerstrom also said the Elgin/O’Hare toll road will be expanded to serve O’Hare airport through a western access. He called the expansion good for O’Hare and said it will act as an economic engine for the region. Schillerstrom also said talked about the \$2.5 billion project expanding the Jane Addams tollway along with the Move Illinois program. He said that project is 62 miles long and will culminate with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century road featuring wider shoulders for buses and the ability to accommodate possible high speed rail from Rockford to Chicago. He said the tollway continues to look for high tech solutions known as smart features. He said that will include signage letting drivers know about travel times and detours and will allow for managed lanes. He said managed lanes are special lanes where you manage the amount of traffic using them. He said that could mean requiring multiple passengers or for people to pay extra to use them. He said the Move Illinois program also will study the central Tri-State for a future rebuild. There has been disagreement over proposed extension of Route 53 north into Lake County. It’s a project that’s been under discussion for decades. Schillerstrom talked about traffic congestion along that corridor and said those who support the extension say the project will ease that. He said the tollway authority recently approved a feasibility and environmental study for the planned expansion. He thinks the study and follow-up discussion will help them decide whether it’s worth the time and money. He also said he knows the people opposed to the project will likely take legal action. He called that part of the process. As for the Illinois state budget impasse, Schillerstrom said that has only a

minimal impact on the tollway. That's because, he said, they generate their own revenue. But as a former local government leader, he said he doesn't have any advice for the legislative leaders who haven't been able to strike a compromise with the Governor. As for his pick for President, Schillerstrom is supporting Jeb Bush.

## V. NEIGHBORHOOD AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

October 4, 2015

Guest: Mary Sue Barrett, President of the Metropolitan Planning Council  
25 minutes out of 30 minute program

Mary Sue Barrett is President of the Metropolitan Planning Council, an independent group that tries to solve the region's planning and development challenges. Recently there was a report that suggested Houston is about to displace Chicago as the third most populous city in the U.S. Barrett said people should care a great deal about the size of Chicago's population. She said the Chicago area's economic recovery has been uneven, growing at only a fraction of a percent. She said growth means dollars for the quality of life people want and the job opportunities they need. According to Barrett, fast growth areas like Houston are fueling their economies with new housing construction, making it easier for entrepreneurs to thrive and easier for companies to expand and invest in infrastructure. Barrett said the lengthy Illinois state budget impasse is having an impact on the region's ability to attract and keep people. She said tourism dollars have dried up, and that means Chicago will have fewer tourists, leading to fewer people moving to the area. She also said governments in the region have been underinvesting in areas like schools, clean water and roads. She said these are hidden issues that are often glossed over because the price tag is too large. She pointed to the proof being in the numbers, noting that last year Chicago's population grew by only 82 people. Barrett added that the loss of the middle class in Chicago is a big negative. On a positive note, she did call Chicago a talent magnet, saying people want to be here because it appears to be a place of opportunity. But she questioned whether those people would stay in Chicago to raise families or perhaps retire here. She said if the city is shrinking, retail and recreation options will go away as well. What can local leaders do to stop this trend? She said the key is bold political action and coordination between government and business. She said that is where the Metropolitan Planning Council plays a pivotal role--bringing people together to discuss what's possible, including ways to fund potential projects. Barrett said public transportation in the Chicago region serves as a solid backbone from which to build. She said Chicago has worked to encourage more intense development around public transportation. She said that includes the building of new housing, while being careful to include reasonable amounts of new parking. The Metropolitan Planning Council has a helpful transit development calculator that helps show what a development means to the area in terms of tax revenue and retail benefits, just by plugging in an address. On the topic of racial and economic segregation, Barrett said that can have an impact on regional growth? She said Chicago has a deep divide

when it comes to race and class and right now that comes with a cost. She said the drag on the economy is an issue the planning council is researching currently.

December 27, 2015

Guests: Mary Dixon, News Anchor/Co-Host at WXRT,  
Mark Grote, Program Host and Sports Journalist at WSCR.  
4 minutes out of 30 minute program

This year-end top stories program spent a few minutes talking about sports and Chicago's neighborhood professional team venues. 2015 was a time for the Cubs to rebuild. Grote said all the hype about the young players acquired by the team came true so all the things that were eventually supposed to happen for the Cubs did. He also said these are young players who are here to stay. He said they have a core that gives them legitimacy. And Grote said the renovations of Wrigley Field have been positive. Dixon said while she thought Wrigley Field was always fun to visit; she thought the improvements were welcoming. Grote said the top sports story in 2015 was the Blackhawks. He said winning the Stanley Cup again brought fans great excitement, and the allegations against Patrick Kane dominated the headlines. As for the Bears, Grote said they have the right coach in place, but they don't have the personnel. Dixon referred to lack of a fun factor. She said the players don't seem to be having fun and therefore the fans aren't having fun.

## **VI. HEALTH CARE**

At Issue

November 22, 2015

Guests: Wendy DuBoe, President & CEO United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Liz Eakins, Executive Director of Lazarus House in St. Charles  
Daisy Feidt, Executive Vice President of Access Living Chicago  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Each year At Issue checks in on social service agencies to see how well they are serving the people they are charged to help and how they are doing financially. 2015 has been an especially difficult year because of the Illinois state budget impasse. Wendy DuBoe, President and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, said the now five-month long budget stalemate is taking its toll on the agencies they serve. She said many human service agencies will start to dismantle because of a lack of state funding and some may not return when money from Springfield finally begins to flow. She cited a survey of 500 social service agencies across the state, saying 80 percent were cutting services, 20 percent have shed staff and many only have one month of a financial cushion remaining, while others already have taken out lines of credit to cover expenses. DuBoe said service agencies working with United Way traditionally are some of the most

financially stable. She said due to the state's situation that's no longer the case. These include programs that serve children and families by providing shelter and food. The impact on these organizations has been slow because the state is so far behind in providing reimbursements from the prior fiscal year. DuBoe says that's about to end and the money is about to dry up completely. She said the way they do business is changing and there will need to be more partnerships and collaborative funding initiatives. Daisy Feidt's Access Living Chicago is an agency that assists people with disabilities. Feidt said about a third of their budget relies on state funding, and impacted is a key program that helps people maneuver through the health care and housing system. They also have a training program for people to become advocates for the disabled. Liz Eakins is Executive Director of Lazarus House in St. Charles, serving central Kane County men, women and children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Most of the services provided are in Aurora and Elgin where many people live paycheck to paycheck or are financially at risk from a divorce or disability. Eakins said her group is in a better position because they don't rely on the state for the majority of their funding. Feidt said uncertainty becomes an issue, because it is hard to know how to plan for the future without knowing when or how much money will be coming from the state. DuBoe said the state has left these agencies in a bad place of having to make critical decisions based on the unknown. She said while there is growth in private giving, that growth will never match what's been lost from Illinois government. Eakins said her organization had already made plans to help become more self-sufficient. But Eakins said Lazarus House funnels people out to the human services agencies in the communities, and some of those service providers are now unable to take as many clients or provide the same level of service. Feidt added the state would save money if those with disabilities received services that would help them become more independent.

## VII. VOTER INFORMATION

At Issue

October 11, 2015

Guest: Donna More, candidate for Cook County State's Attorney.

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Donna More is one of two candidates challenging the incumbent Cook County State's Attorney in this election season. She is a lawyer with experience as an Assistant U-S Attorney and Assistant State's Attorney with expertise in the gaming industry. This is her first run at public office. When asked why she is running, she said she is angry about the current level of violence in the Chicago area. She said she is a parent and rejects the environment in which some kids are growing up and she said she is in a position to help fix the criminal justice system. More said the current State's Attorney has been absent for the last seven years and accused her of making decisions based on influence instead of evidence. She also said her other opponent in the campaign is politically beholden to the Cook County Board President. She said she would make the State's Attorney's office better by collaborating with the community to reduce gun violence. She said the finger pointing has to stop and that teachers, preachers, police and business owners all need to share

information toward getting people to come forward about crime and get guns off the streets. More said she is not an advocate for mandatory minimum sentences. Instead, she said she would rather have a centralized, citywide preliminary gun court where judges and prosecutors review cases together and begin separating the career offenders from those who may have just made a mistake. More also said she believes violence could be reduced through legislation, especially through regulation of gun shows and the secondary transfer of guns. The Cook County Board President has said there are too many people in prison for minor drug offenses. Others think the system is soft on crime. More says she believes about a third of low level offenders will be dismissed by the state, but only after those offenders spend at 25 days in prison. She said a better review process is needed for these cases. She said the money spent housing and processing low level drug offenders could instead be used to help them overcome drug addiction. When asked about a potential Chicago casino, More said she thought such a casino would help create jobs and would be well regulated, but she also allowing a casino would be a political decision for others to make.

December 27, 2015

Guests: Mary Dixon, News Anchor/Co-Host at WXRT,

Mark Grote, Program Host and Sports Journalist at WSCR.

13 minutes out of 30 minute program

The state of the state dominated the news in 2015. Republican Bruce Rauner was sworn in as governor and ran head-on into two powerful democratic leaders. Dixon said Governor Rauner appeared to believe he could run the state like a CEO and that hasn't work. She said Illinois is six months into a budget impasse and the first time the two sides met to really discuss it was last month. Grote questioned how the budget impasse impacts the average person. Dixon said you'll know just how if you get a ticket because your license plate sticker has expired. The Secretary of State, she said, no longer mails out reminders in order to save money. Dellimore said there hasn't been that much pain from a lack of a state budget because the schools have opened and public aid checks are still being paid, so the pressure on lawmakers isn't there. Dixon said she has seen budget impasses before, but nothing like this. Grote questioned lawmakers' behavior calling it irresponsible and ridiculous. As for the race for President, Dixon wonders who the pollsters are. She said it's going to be very interesting. Grote said Trump is getting good numbers but wonders if voters will actually put him in office.

#### WXRT Promos that ran during 4th Quarter 2015

Rock for Kids - 10/26 1:18p, 10/27 12:12p, 10/28 2:48p, 10/29 3:42p, 10/30 1:49p

CBS Career Fair PSA - 11/2 1:19p, 11/3 2:18p, 11/4 12:19p, 11/7 6:18p, 11/8 3:19p

Giving Tuesday PSA - 11/27 11:47a, 11/28 1:14a, 11/29 1:42p, 11/30 8:48p, 12/1 6:56p

PAWS Chicago - 10/2 4:15a, 10/5 4:45a, 10/7 11:50a, 11/10 2:15a, 11/13 5:45a

Driehaus Museum - 10/1 3:15a, 10/5 3:15a, 10/8 4:15a

City of Chicago Farmers Markets - 10/1 4:45a, 10/5 3:45a, 10/8 4:45a

Women & Child First - 10/3 2:45a, 10/5 12:20p, 10/9 2:45a

Timeline Theatre - 10/2 2:15a, 10/5 2:45a, 10/8 2:45a

City of Chicago Dance Party - 10/2 4:45a, 10/6 2:15a, 10/9 2:15a, 10/11 5:45a, 10/14 3:15a

Columbia College - 10/3 2:15a, 10/6 2:45a, 10/9 3:15a, 10/11 5:15a, 10/13 12:50p

West Suburban Symphony Orchestra - 10/4 2:45a, 10/7 3:45a, 10/11 2:45a, 10/13 4:45a, 10/16 4:15a

Chicago Library - 10/10 2:15a, 10/12 3:15a, 10/14 4:15a, 10/18 2:45a

Willow House - 10/2 2:45a, 10/5 2:15a, 10/8 2:25a, 10/11 4:15a, 10/12 11:20a

Art Institute - 10/3 5:45a, 10/7 3:45a, 10/11 3:15a, 10/19 2:15a

Steppenwolf Theatre - 10/6 4:45a, 10/10 5:45a, 10/13 4:15a, 10/16 3:45a, 10/19 4:15a

Chicago Symphony Orchestra - 10/17 2:45a, 10/20 3:15a, 10/23 4:45a, 10/26 4:45a

City of Chicago Farmers Markets - 10/4 5:45a, 10/8 2:45a, 10/11 4:45a, 10/17 5:45a, 10/20 2:15a

DePaul University - 10/17 2:15a, 10/20 2:45a, 10/22 4:45a

Elmhurst College - 10/10 3:45a, 10/14 2:15a, 10/17 5:15a, 10/19 11:50a

American Heart Association - 10/7 2:15a, 10/9 4:45a, 10/12 4:15a, 10/15 2:15a, 10/17 4:15a

FEMA - 10/11 3:45a, 10/15 2:45a, 10/18 3:15a, 10/21 3:15a, 10/24 4:45a

Remy Bumppo Theatre - 10/21 2:15a, 10/23 3:45a, 10/27 2:45a, 10/30 3:15a, 11/2 4:15a

Chicago Public Library - 10/25 2:15a, 10/28 2:15a, 10/31 5:45a

Consumer Electronics Association - 10/22 3:45a, 10/25 4:45a, 10/28 3:45a, 11/1 2:48a, 11/2 11:20a

Old Town School - 10/25 3:15a, 10/27 11:50a, 10/31 5:15a, 11/4 3:15a, 11/7 3:45a

Bridge Communities - 10/22 3:15a, 10/25 2:45a, 10/27 4:15a, 10/30 4:15a, 11/3 3:15a

Chicago Cat Rescue - 10/29 2:15a, 11/1 4:45a, 11/4 11:50a, 11/7 5:45a

Food Safety dot gov - 11/11 2:15a, 11/14 5:45a, 11/16 4:45a, 11/19 3:45a, 11/22 4:15a

US Department of Health - 11/17 4:45a, 11/20 2:45a, 11/23 3:45a, 11/25 2:15a, 11/28 4:45a

Consumer Electronics Association - 11/14 4:15a, 11/17 2:15a, 11/19 4:15a, 11/21 4:15a, 11/28 5:45a

Dominican University - 10/28 4:45a, 11/1 3:15a, 11/4 4:45a, 11/7 5:15a, 11/10 3:15a

Black Ensemble Theatre - 11/3 2:15a, 11/6 3:15a, 11/8 5:15a, 11/9 12:20p, 11/12 2:45a

Great Clips for Veterans Day - 11/4 2:15a, 11/7 2:45a, 11/9 3:15a, 11/10 11:50a

Northwestern University - 11/13 3:45a, 11/16 2:15a, 11/18 3:45a, 11/20 4:45a

Chicago Cultural Center - 11/13 3:15a, 11/15 5:45a, 11/18 3:15a, 11/20 4:15a, 11/22 3:15a

Kohl Children's Museum - 11/6 2:45a, 11/8 2:15a, 11/10 3:45a, 11/14 2:45a, 11/16 3:45a

Shelter Pet Project - 11/7 4:15a, 11/9 4:15a, 11/11 4:45a, 11/14 5:45a, 11/16 11:50a

Matching Donors - 11/25 4:45a, 11/29 4:15a, 12/2 4:15a, 12/5 5:15a, 12/8 3:45a

Millennium Park - 11/27 2:15a, 11/30 2:45a, 12/4 2:15a, 12/6 5:15a, 12/9 4:15a

Chicago Library - 12/3 3:45a, 12/6 2:45a, 12/10 3:45a

Metropolis Arts Arlington Heights - 11/26 4:15a, 12/1 3:45a, 12/5 2:45a, 12/7 4:15a

Chicago Symphony Orchestra - 11/28 2:45a, 12/2 2:45a, 12/5 4:15a, 12/8 2:45a, 11:50a

Chicago Acapella - 12/11 2:45a, 12/13 5:45a, 12/14 11:20a, 12/19 2:45a

Heartland Blood Centers - 12/9 3:15a, 12/12 4:45a, 12/15 3:45a, 12/16 12:20p

Provision Theatre - 12/3 2:45a, 12/6 3:15a, 12/10 3:45a, 12/13 3:15a, 12/16 3:45a

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs - 12/9 2:15a, 12/12 3:45a, 12/15 2:45a

Fulton Street Collective - 12/5 5:45a, 12/8 4:15a, 12/12 2:45a, 12/14 4:45a, 12/15 12:50p

Better Business Bureau - 12/13 4:15a, 12/16 3:15a, 12/19 5:45a, 12/22 3:15a, 12/26 3:45a

Theatre Wit - 12/9 4:45a, 12/12 5:45a, 12/15 4:45a, 12/19 4:15a, 12/26 4:45a

Paramount Theatre - 12/11 2:15a, 12/13 4:45a, 12/17 4:45a, 12/20 5:45a, 12/23 11:50a

Libertyville Food Pantry - 12/9 11:20a, 12/14 2:45a, 12/18 3:15a, 12/21 2:45a, 12/4 3:53a

Goodman Theatre - 12/11 4:45a, 12/14 3:45a, 12/18 4:15a, 12/21 3:15a, 12/25 4:15a

Department of Energy - 12/20 5:15a, 12/24 2:15a, 12/27 3:15a, 12/28 4:45a, 12/31 3:45a

Museum of Science and Industry - 12/16 2:45a, 12/19 5:15a, 12/22 3:45a, 12/26 4:15a, 12/27 5:57a

Adler Planetarium - 12/19 4:45a, 12/22 4:15a, 12/26 3:15a, 12/27 6:47a, 12/29 4:45a

National Fair Housing - 12/12 - 3:15a, 12/15 2:15a, 12/19 3:45a, 12/22 2:45a, 12/26 2:15a

AARP - 12/20 2:45a, 12/23 2:45a, 12/26 5:45a, 12/28 3:45a, 12/31 2:45a

Gary Sinise Foundation - 12/11 4:15a, 12/14 3:15a, 12/18 3:45a, 12/21 3:45a, 12/24 12:50p

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre - 12/17 2:15a, 12/20 3:15a, 12/23 3:15a, 12/27 2:45a, 12/28 4:15a

University of Chicago - 12/3 4:45a, 12/6 4:45a, 12/9 3:45a, 12/15 4:15a, 12/22 2:15a

Metropolis Arts Centre - 12/16 4:15a, 12/20 2:15a, 12/23 2:15a, 12/26 5:15a, 12/28 3:15a