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**ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT**

**FOR**

**STATION WXRT-FM HD2**

**SECOND QUARTER, 2014**  
**APRIL 1 – JUNE 30**

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**ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CHICAGO**

**ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE  
SECOND QUARTER 2014**

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. Health Care: Providing adequate facilities for health care, particularly indigent care; providing affordable health care and access to services.
6. Voter Information: Helping voters make personal election decisions by giving insights into those that are running for offices in upcoming elections.
7. Neighborhood and Suburban Development: Efforts within the City of Chicago to promote neighborhood cohesion, economic opportunities and housing. Infrastructure concerns.

**WXRT - FM**

**PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES  
SECOND QUARTER, 2014**

1. Public Affairs Program: April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 14 and June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6am.  
Duration: (30:00). This locally produced show features interviews with authors and professionals regarding issues of local and national concern.
  
2. At Issue: Saturdays & Sundays (except October 19th, November 16th & December 21<sup>st</sup>) at 6am.  
Duration: (30:00) Locally produced interview show featuring top newsmakers discussing state and community issues.

**I. SCHOOL REFORM AND EDUCATION**

## At Issue

March 30, 2014

Guest: Sheila Simon/Lt. Governor

12 minutes of 30 minute program

Governor Pat Quinn proposed a budget that would increase education spending, something Sheila Simon says she's all for. But to do that, Simon said we'll have to find a way to pay for any increases. The options she mentioned: making the temporary income tax increase permanent at 5 percent, or increase taxes for millionaires, as proposed by Speaker of the House Michael Madigan. Simon said the educational funding system in Illinois is inequitable and the state needs to work on closing the gap between families who can afford to give their child an education and who struggle to do so. Simon also said the state of Illinois can help young people stay in college by improving math education in high school. Simon also said the state needs to get college students ready to meet the changing job market--that competition is no longer just with other states, but also with other countries.

## At Issue

May 11, 2014

Guests: Stephanie Neely/Chicago City Treasurer

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Neely started off explaining, 'Talk with our Kids about Money', a new program the Chicago City Treasurer's Office and Chicago Public Schools started to teach children about money. Neely said they want to make sure they are empowering parents to talk to their kids about money. She said the program received a grant from the Canadian Education Foundation. Neely said when she became treasurer one of her goals was to make sure students in Chicago had some form of financial literacy. Neely said children are being bombarded with images that teach to spend and it is important we also teach them the importance of saving. Financial literacy, she said, also helps kids with math and reading. Neely said they found that parents are embarrassed to talk to their children about money, and that many students don't know the difference between savings and investing. Neely talked about another program, 'Bank on Chicago'; this is a program that offers easy-to-access checking accounts for "unbanked" and under-banked individuals. Neely said unbanked refers to a person who does not have any relationship with a bank at all and under-bank means a person may have a bank account but he or she still uses a currency exchange to cash paychecks. Neely said 'Bank on Chicago' also teaches individuals why you should keep your money in a bank. She said many people do not trust banks.

Guests: Richard Kirkpatrick and Harvey Pranian of YEA! Young Evanston Artists.  
30 minutes of 30 minute program

Topic: Discussed YEA Day, their performing arts festival on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Evanston. They offer a variety of arts education programs to school kids in Evanston. Also discussed why it's important to supplement school's arts programs and what the arts can do for young people.

## **II. BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT**

At Issue

March 30, 2014

Guest: Shelia Simon/Lt. Governor

3 minutes of 30 minute program

Simon says she supports a minimum wage increase in Illinois. Simon said she does understand the concern that some businesses have with the hike, but she said that's outweighed by positives. And increase in wages, she said, can help move people off government assistance programs, and those people can then start contributing to the community. Simon said many people with minimum wage jobs are college students.

At Issue

May 11, 2014

Guests: Stephanie Neely/Chicago City Treasurer

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Neely spoke about pensions, calling them "three legged stools"; you have investment income, contribution income and benefits. Neely said you cannot invest your way out of pensions. Neely said it comes down to contributions and benefits. Neely said there is a misconception that the city mismanaged the money. She said that is not true. In regard to teacher pensions, Neely said they need to be creative because there are not a lot of city services to cut. Neely said it is possible Chicago's credit rating could get downgraded again. That means the cost of borrowing would rise.

At Issue

June 22 & 28, 2014

Guests: Rev. Byron Brazier/Pastor, Apostolic Church of God  
Toi Hutchinson/State Senator  
Donald Moffitt/State Representative  
Theresa Mintle/Pres and CEO Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This week on ‘At Issue’ political editor Craig Dellimore featured portions of the Center for Tax and Budget and Budget Accountability’s fiscal meeting, where the discussion was on how to solve the Illinois’ fiscal problems. Brazier said in order to fix a community you can’t just have one solution. He said it is important that education, health and human services, public safety and economic development all work together in order to uplift a community. Hutchinson said her district houses residents with very diverse income levels. She said some parts of her district are poor and others are wealthy. Hutchinson said a gradual income tax increase is the best way to deal with Illinois’ fiscal crisis. But Hutchinson also said that increase would be hard to come by because the state constitution would need amending. Hutchinson said the state’s tax system needs updating, calling the current system out of date. In the late ‘90s, a plan to increase the state income tax was proposed by former Republican Illinois Governor Jim Edgar. The purpose was to fund education, rather than rely on property taxes. Moffit said he was one of only seven House Republicans who voted for the Edgar plan, which he considered a good idea. Moffitt said we have to make changes but we also have to respect the law. Mintle said fixing Illinois’ deficit is not just about taxing; it’s also about regulation and investing. Mintle said the types of funding need to be addressed. Moffitt said he would like to see bipartisan problem solving. Hutchinson said the best job creators are the consumers. Moffitt said most city businesses are opposed to a separate tax increase in Chicago because it puts them at a disadvantage with the suburbs and Indiana.

### Public Affairs Program

May 17, 2014

Guests: Ron Kaplan of CityPak. An organization which puts together and distributes backpacks with supplies for the homeless.

30 minutes of 30 minute program

Topic: Homelessness in Chicago and how to help.

## III. CRIME AND VIOLENCE

At Issue

June 1 & 7, 2014

Guests: Robert Holley/Special Agent-In-Charge of FBI Chicago Office

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Holley said the threat of terrorism in Chicago has increased since 9/11. But he also said the core leadership in Al Qaeda has been killed, so their ability to plan an attack has been limited. Holley said the FBI uses different techniques to find home-grown terrorists; although he would not go into detail on the techniques. Holley said the Boston Marathon Bombing reinforced the importance of sharing information among law enforcement agencies. He said the older brother in the Boston Bombing duo, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was on the FBI radar even before the bombing. Holley said the Boston Police Department had access to the information on Tamerlan, but it was available in a quickly accessible manner. Holley said there is great cooperation between state and federal prosecutors. He also said counter-terrorism is still the number one priority for the FBI. As for Chicago, Holley said the gang problem is the area is worse than in New York, Washington and Los Angeles. Holley said historically Chicago has had a gang problem, and after law enforcement went after the leadership in the prominent gangs, the next generation of gang members broke off into smaller groups. Because of a lack of leadership, he said, they become more violent. Holley said the FBI also investigates corruption in local government. He said a good portion of his office is working on political corruption cases currently, but would not go into detail. He said greed is the likely motivator for political corruption.

At Issue

June 8, 2014

Guests: Esther Franco-Payne/Program Director of Ill. Justice Project  
George Timberlake/Retired Judge and Chair of Il. Juvenile Com.  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Timberlake said the biggest challenge in treating juvenile offenders is that our juvenile justice system is not well organized. Timberlake called it a scientific fact that adolescents do not have fully developed brains so it is important to make sure all moving parts within the system work together properly. Timberlake said children are not small adults and the ability of a child to articulate or convey a story is the first challenge; and they do not have the ability to understand what's going on in a courtroom or police station. He said children mature over time, and that time needs to be taken into account throughout the system. Payne said it is important to understand what caused a young person to commit a crime. She said our court system has moved to a philosophy of "tough on crime policy" rather than of "smart on crime policy," so they do not focus on what caused young people to commit a crime. Payne said most people think juvenile justice advocates don't believe in accountability, but she says that's not true. Payne said the key is having a system that makes people better--not just locking them up. Timberlake mentioned a bill floating around the state legislature to create an independent ombudsman, someone to look after imprisoned youth and others in the system. But Timberlake said this is not a new idea. He said the idea sprouted from statistics showing Illinois is one of the top five states for most complaints of sexual victimization of children in custody.

Public Affairs Program  
June 14 & 15, 2014  
Guests: Cook Sherrif Tom Dart  
30 minutes of 30 minute program

Topic: Sheriff Dart discussed the new concealed carry law in Illinois. He complains the law was poorly written. His office has objected to between 1300 to 1400 concealed carry applications because the applicants have violent criminal records, are charged with murder, or have a history of domestic violence. Dart notes his office is devoting significant time to going through applications without any extra funding designated for that work. In assessing the number of murders and other shooting crimes around Cook County, Sheriff Dart notes murders are down. He credits Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy with giving very thoughtful attention to various crime-fighting strategies, some more effective than others. Dart says one can not discount the effect of the weather – that when it's hot, the jail is more crowded. He also says the availability of guns is a major contributor to a complex problem.

#### **IV. TRANSPORTATION**

**At Issue****April 13, 2014****Guests: Martin Oberman/Metra Chairman****30 minutes out of 30 minute program**

Oberman stressed that Metra is a regional rail system and not a suburban rail system.

Oberman said there are 76 Metra stops in the city of Chicago. He said the problems at Metra are not new and have been there for decades and it is important to end those. Oberman took over the chairmanship of Metra earlier this year, and said he discovered that Metra is behind the times on how the operation is run. For example, Oberman said they are using an accounting system that was created in the 1960s; a system that needs to be updated. Oberman said his mission is to change both the internal culture and how Metra is viewed by the public. Oberman said Metra's internal audit system is "in shambles" and an ordinance now has been passed to restructure it. Oberman said the problem in Metra has always been lack of leadership at the top, and that it has never been an internal problem on the lower levels. Oberman said Metra does not own or control all of the rail lines on which it operates and they can't tell the companies who own those railways what to do. He says that can cause delays.

**At Issue****June 15 & 21, 2014****Guests: Susana Mendoza/Chicago City Clerk****30 minutes out of 30 minute program**

Mendoza said this will be the final year there will be a specific time when everyone in Chicago with a car needs to purchase a vehicle sticker. Starting in 2015, residents will renew at various times throughout the year. As a result, Mendoza said this will be the last year for long lines at City Hall. After people purchase this year's vehicle sticker, Mendoza said her office will send out reminder notices to renew in the future. Mendoza said this reminder is not mandatory for her department, but a courtesy; so residents should still keep track of when their parking sticker expires. Mendoza also talked about the former student art competition, where kids would vie for a chance to have their design featured on the city stickers. There was a controversy a couple years ago about the winning design. There was a question whether the drawing was gang inspired. But she also said this was not the reason the program ended. Mendoza said the move to a year-round sticker program would have ended the competition anyway. On another topic, Mendoza said she spearheaded an effort to ban pet shops from getting their animals from puppy mills. She said she was horrified when she learned how such animals were treated. Mendoza said businesses should not profit from animal abuse, and she said pet shops can still make money by being responsible and knowing where their animals come from. Mendoza also said she is completely focused on being City Clerk and not thinking about running for a higher office.

**V. HEALTH CARE**

**At Issue****April 6 & 12, 2014****Guests: Joel Africk/ Pres. of Respiratory Health Association of Greater Chicago****Victoria Vasconcellos/Pres. of Cignot, an e-cigarette retailer****30 minutes of 30 minute program**

This program featured a look at e-cigarettes and how they should be treated by law.

Africk said even though e-cigarettes are not tobacco they should still be considered the same by law, because the nicotine that e-cigarettes have comes from tobacco. He said when people use e-cigarettes and exhale, there's still second hand smoke, although not as strong as with regular cigarettes. Vasconcellos said the research shows that e-cigarette vapors do not harm bystanders with second hand smoke. But A

frick said the vapor in e-cigarettes is not harmless water vapor. Vasconcellos said there are much more damaging things in the environment than people smoking e-cigarettes. He said it may be rude for people to smoke around nonsmokers but you can't legislate against rude behavior. Africk said the research shows this product has chemicals so people who use them should go outside to smoke. He also said e-cigarettes were designed to provide a nicotine fix and not designed to help quit smoking. But Vasconcellos said nicotine is not what kills people; it is the smoke in cigarettes. Africk said the nicotine in e-cigarettes is derived from tobacco. Vasconcellos said she wants everyone to stop smoking, but it is not easy and she believes she has found the solution with e-cigarettes. However, Africk cited The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as seeing an increase in reports of nicotine poisoning from e-cigarettes. He said the CDC reported that liquid nicotine poisoning had risen 200-fold from 2010 to 2014. Africk said e-cigarette products are not regulated but need to be.

**At Issue****May 4 & 10, 2014**

Guests: Toni Preckwinkle/Cook County President  
John Jay Shannon/Interim CEO of Cook Co. Health & Hospitals Systems  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Preckwinkle said Cook County has a 3-billion dollar budget, about a third of which goes to health care. Preckwinkle said there have been some major health care changes in the county due to the ‘Affordable Healthcare Act.’ She said the Health and Hospital System has developed a system called “County Care,” which focuses on primary health care and prevention. The big change, said Shannon, is a health care prevention plan for lower income residents, rather than just providing care after there’s an issue. But Shannon also said the number of Cook County facilities is limited, so it can be difficult for low income residents to get to one of them. Shannon said if a person fails to get preventative care, that person typically will go to the emergency room if they are sick; that in turn puts a strain on the system. Preckwinkle said the county is working to designate emergency rooms for emergencies and not for primary healthcare. She said it is cheaper to help people use preventable measures to remain healthy rather than them getting sick and winding up in the emergency room. Preckwinkle said the ‘Affordable Healthcare Act’ also has helped jailed inmates who have mental health issues. They’re able to enroll in community care so upon release they have a facility available for treatment. Shannon also said Medicaid enrollment is ongoing, so people can enroll at any time if they think they are eligible.

Public Affairs Program

May 17, 2014

Guests: Ron Kaplan of CityPak. An organization which puts together and distributes backpacks with supplies for the homeless.

30 minutes of 30 minute program

Topic: Homelessness in Chicago and how to help them.

At Issue

May 18 & 24, 2014

Guests: Dr. William McDade/President of Il. State Medical Society  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

McDade said he wanted to be involved in the Illinois State Medical Society to help change how medical students and residents are trained. He addressed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) which recently hit the news after a person was diagnosed in the Chicago area. McDade said so far there only have been a couple of cases on record in the United States. He explained the symptom of MERS, and said the disease actually is difficult to contract. McDade also discussed ‘the Affordable Care Act,’ saying he hopes it gives those in the need an opportunity to have health insurance for the first time. McDade said having a primary caregiver helps a person develop a relationship with a doctor, and helps them understand the difference between what is and is not a health emergency. McDade said what drives up the cost of healthcare is practicing “defensive” medicine. Proactive, preventative care helps save money, he said, long-term. McDade also said diversity is important in the medical field for a variety of reasons. He said patients may be more comfortable and communicate better with physicians who are of the same ethnicity and speak the same language; and that, he said, improves healthcare. The Illinois State Medical Society has been fighting a bill that would allow psychologists to prescribe drugs, most notably mind-altering drugs. McDade said the legislation should be rejected because the training for a doctor is different than for a psychologist. He said medical doctors are trained to see in action how drugs affect people; so they understand how important it is to write the correct prescription. McDade said psychologists do not go through that type of training, and he said it could be deadly for medicine to be prescribed by those not trained properly.

## VI. VOTER INFORMATION

**At Issue****April 20 & 26, 2014****Guest: Michael Frerichs/Democratic Candidate for Illinois Treasurer****30 minutes out of 30 minute program**

Frerichs said he decided to run for Illinois Treasurer because a few people approached him about running for a higher office than his current role as state senator. He said he looked at some of the state's financial offices, and after doing research decided he could do a good job as Illinois Treasurer. Frerichs said he would do a better job than his opponent, Tom Cross, because he has experience as a county auditor and is a certified public finance officer. When asked how his past experience would help him as treasurer, Frerichs said the office is about working with numbers and money, skills he's got. Frerichs said his opponent has been a "Springfield insider" and deal-maker for decades and his skill set would not be right for this office. Frerichs said his first day as treasurer he would initiate a full audit to learn exactly where money is being spent. Frerichs said the system for funding education in Illinois has gone unchanged for 16 years and said there are funding inequities throughout the state. Frerichs said he is honored that Republicans are linking him to Governor Pat Quinn's budget plan, even though that "linking" is meant as an insult. Frerichs said what's insulting is how Republicans are slamming Quinn's budget plan without offering an alternative.

**At Issue****April 27 & May 3, 2014****Guests: Tom Cross/GOP Candidate for Illinois Treasurer****30 minutes out of 30 minute program**

Cross said he wants to be Treasurer of Illinois because the state has been working on financial problems for years and he has the skills to fix them. Cross gave the example of the state working on the pension problem. He said he thinks the Treasurer's office can be utilized to help turn the state around. Cross said the biggest problem in Illinois is the lack of a balanced budget. Cross said Illinois has \$7 billion of unpaid bills. He said his opponent is a supporter of an unbalanced budget, and said Democrats tried to fix the debt by increasing the cigarette tax. Cross said instead of figuring out how much revenue they would receive, they just guessed. He said the Democrats thought they would get \$100 million from the increase, but it wound up netting only half that amount. The problem, according to Cross, was the Democrats spent the \$100 million they anticipated, and put the state into more debt. Cross also said he doesn't think the temporary income tax should become permanent. He said if it became permanent, the idea of reform goes away. Cross said a few years ago Republicans were able to reform Medicaid and they could do the same thing with education and other programs to save money. Cross said the nickname in Springfield for his opponent, Mike Frerichs, is "High Tax Mike." Cross said the state receives \$35 billion in revenue so the issue is not getting more money, it's about cutting and reforming programs in Illinois. Cross called Illinois a great state and said its problems can be fixed. Cross said one savings would come from combining the offices of comptroller and treasurer.

**At Issue**

May 25 & 31, 2014

Guests: Bob Dold/Republican Candidate for Congress  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Dold said there are some positive aspects in the Affordable Care Act, but says people are starting to see their premiums and deductibles rise. He said he would not vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act but rather would work on fixing it. Dold said over the past two years there have been 11 budgets that came to the House floor and his opponent, Brad Schneider, voted for none of them. Dold said it took Schneider 11 months to introduce his first bill and that the 10<sup>th</sup> District is looking for leadership. On gun control, Dold said he believes in responsible gun ownership. Dold said immigration reform is critical to our economy. Dold said we are a nation of immigrants and we need to fix the legal process on how people become citizens. He said he supports the “Dream Act,” which is legislation that would grant citizenship to children who were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents. Dold said if he gains office he would work to keep the cost of living low so people are not spending more on basic things like food. Dold also said college needs to be made more affordable.

### **At Issue**

June 29, 2014

Guests: Congressman Brad Schneider  
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Schneider said The Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group is a very big concern and the Iraqi government needs reform so it can combat those types of groups. Schneider said he opposes sending troops back to Iraq. He also said he does not believe America pulled out of Iraq too soon and he is happy troops are coming home. Schneider said he is very proud to be on the foreign affairs committee, because the committee works in a bipartisan way. Schneider said he worked with Republican Representative Mark Meadows to pass a bill that would impose sanctions on Hezbollah. Schneider said he takes issue with his opponent Bod Dold saying he (Dold) supports the Dream Act. Schneider said when given the chance to vote for immigrant reform when he was in Congress previously, he voted against it. Schneider said this country needs to treat our veterans and their families better. He said there are real problems in our veteran’s health care system. He said he sent a letter to the VA hospital in his district to get them audited. Schneider also said our national health care system is broken and the ‘Affordable Care Act’ is the first step toward fixing it. He said the act has allowed more people get insurance. Schneider said he is working to make sure the ‘Affordable Care Act’ is a success because he wants people to have good health care. Schneider said his opponent voted 28 times to repeal or defund the Act, while he Schneider advocated fixing the Act. Schneider also said the minimum wage needs to increase to \$10.10 an hour over a three year period, supporting President Obama’s plan.

### **At Issue**

March 30, 2014

Guest: Shelia Simon/Lt. Governor  
15 minutes of 30 minute program

Simon said she tries to lead by example when cutting down on spending, and as Lieutenant Governor she proposed budget decreases. Simon said she reduced the size of her office and returns one of her pay checks each month back to the state. Simon said she looks forward to doing the same thing in Comptroller's office. Simon went on to explain what the Comptroller office does. Simon said the Comptroller's race will be a challenge, but believes she would be a better comptroller than her opponent, incumbent Judy Barr Topinka. Simon said as comptroller should supply taxpayers an "income receipt," which would show people in writing where their money is going. Simon said she appreciates Topinka's service but sometimes you need fresh eyes to look at things. Simon said while there have not been a lot of mistakes under Topinka, there have been missed opportunities to help make the state better.

## **VII. NEIGHBORHOOD AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Public Affairs Program

May 17, 2014

Guests: Ron Kaplan of CityPak. An organization which puts together and distributes backpacks with supplies for the homeless.  
30 minutes of 30 minute program

Topic: Homelessness in Chicago and how to help them.