

August 01, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

City-County task force seeks discussion topics

Citizens are invited to submit ideas and suggestions to be discussed at upcoming City and County Planning Task Force meetings beginning Aug. 1. [Ideas can be submitted online](#) or via written application, available at the City Clerk's Office and the Greene County Commission.

Input will be forwarded to all members of [City Council](#) and the [Greene County Commission](#) for their consideration. If a Councilperson or Commissioner is interested in an idea, it will be endorsed ("sponsored") and forwarded to the task force. All applications will be made public, since this information is being forwarded to elected officials.

Springfield Mayor Bob Stephens called for the formation of a new task force, comprised of City of Springfield and Greene County leaders, to address issues of mutual interest to both organizations.

The group, which hosted its first meeting July 26, 2013, is charged with identifying current and anticipated similar fiscal and service delivery challenges, and is asked to suggest measurable solutions.

The City and County jointly operate several services, including: Springfield-Greene County Health Department; Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications; Springfield-Greene County Park Board and Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. Additionally, the City and County cooperate and collaborate on many other initiatives on a daily basis.

The task force has already been assigned the following list of topics for discussion:

- County's fiscal crisis
- Criminal justice issues (including jail overcrowding)
- Unfunded environmental mandates
- Stormwater funding
- Increasing employee and dependent healthcare costs
- Employee recruitment/retention/compensation/levels (current and future)
- Unfunded capital needs (various)
- Lifecycle capital replacement costs
- Fuel costs
- Facilities for courts (circuit and municipal)
- Public health funding disparity and service impact
- Public trust
- Communication with citizens, including a need for more civic engagement

- Growth planning
- Economic / Business development
- Information systems
- Explanation/Clarification of shared services
- Functional consolidation possibilities

To submit ideas, visit www.springfieldmo.gov/taskforce/citycounty/ideastart.html.

The next Task Force Meeting will take place 8-9:30 a.m., Aug. 7 at the Busch Municipal Building, 4th Floor Conference Room.

For more information, contact Cora Scott, City of Springfield Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement at 417-864-1009 or Dale Moore at 417-848-7777.