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Legislatively, it would take several months, once the Alderman introduces a resolution, for the bill to go through council committee and the Community Development Committee and before final acceptance by city council. There would also be a wait until an additional \$1 million in funds is accumulated in the TIF account that could then be available for the SBIF program.

In the Kennedy corridor, where Alderman Colon supports establishing a SBIF, necessary funds will have accumulated for the TIF program by November 2009, according to Mike Weber. Even with the SBIF Resolution, it will take until November 2010 for the accumulated tax increment to be available for a SBIF in the Kennedy TIF (which includes but goes beyond the Kennedy industrial corridor).

Saving Residents Money ... The Economic Stimulus and Energy Audits: Except for some changes in personal taxation, the most immediate effect of the Economic Stimulus Package just passed by the Congress might well be several billions of dollars devoted to Energy Audits. Assuming the banking industry's problems are solved and the negative sentiments among consumers and business decision-makers change a bit to the positive, the best option for financial support for local business are the billions allocated to energy retrofitting.

Since all businesses would benefit by decreasing energy bills for HVAC and electricity, it is a good idea to sign up with Com Ed for their energy retrofit program (whose funding was to be renewed in June).

ComEd and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) introduced a series of new energy efficiency and demand response programs that can provide significant savings to businesses and local government on their electric bills. For more information, visit www.ComEdCARE.com or www.illinoisenergy.org. And get a copy of Keynes "General Theory," 'cause that's the new (old) game in town.

Did you know Enterprise Zone Benefits can mean a bundle of cash saved?

If your business is in Enterprise Zone #4 (boundaries: Western west along Addison to Central Park, south on Central Park to Belmont; East along Belmont to the Kennedy Expressway, then south along the Kennedy to Western) you can save money on the following:

- Real Estate Transfer Tax on business real estate sales: you do not have to pay \$7.50 per \$1,000 of the purchase price when purchasing a building in the Enterprise Zone;
- Sales Tax Exemption on construction materials for renovation or new construction of your property; if you purchase the materials in an Illinois retail establishment.

Greater West Town Project Offers Free Services to Employers

In this down-turned economy, businesses of all sizes are looking for ways to minimize operational costs, as well as hire the most qualified candidates available for their job openings. Greater West Town Project offers free services to businesses to help them streamline their hiring process and ensure they are hiring skilled employees.

Greater West Town Project, funded through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, assists Chicago residents in obtaining the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace and finding employment. Greater West Town Project specializes in helping workers laid off from companies due to plant closure or down-sizing, but also works with the general population as well. Through employer partnerships, Greater West Town Project works to pre-screen qualified candidates and help businesses meet their hiring needs free of charge.

In addition, if a company is laying off workers, Greater West Town Project's Rapid Response Team can perform job-readiness workshops for the workers being laid off to ensure they are ready to rejoin the workforce quickly.

Greater West Town Project also has two vocational programs, a Woodworking training program and a Shipping and Receiving training program. When students complete the 12-week Shipping and Receiving training program, they can walk away with three certificates: a forklift certification, an OSHA certification, and a certificate of program completion. The students learn about many aspects of shipping and receiving: how to use an RF scanner, online inventory control, warehouse lay-out, and online shipping services, to name just a few. After the students successfully complete the program, Greater West Town Project works to place them in employment.

If you currently have any job openings, are laying off members of your workforce, or are interested in learning more about Greater West Town Project's programs, please contact Barbara Rykaczewski, Assistant Coordinator for Client and Follow-Up Services, at (312) 432-1300 x115.



KEBIC Board President Bill Fester, KEBIC Intern Eric Martinez, Board members Betsy Lazar of Park National Bank, Joe Wagner of Xpedx, and Mark Thomas of Marche Noir listen to Commander Mealer at the KEBIC October Luncheon. (See article, below)

Commander Mealer speaks to KEBIC:

17th Police Commander Michael Mealer spoke at KEBIC's October Luncheon. In this meeting, and in subsequent public events, Commander Mealer emphasized how better coordination and planning in utilizing scarce resources has been leading to better control of street crimes. For instance, TAC Teams from the 17th and other Districts are now focused simultaneously on different problem areas in one District for an hour or two at a time, enough to eliminate a problem, and then shift to problem areas in another District, repeating this several times in one shift. This maximizes resources and the removal of criminals from the streets.

Hiring Incentive puts cash in your pocket

Work Force Training- Greater West Town and Greater North Pulaski can access state funds for 50/50 match to cover company training costs for incumbent and new employees

Employers who hire eligible Chicago residents can receive up to \$3,500 per employee as part of the Mayor's Business Hiring Incentive Program (BHIP). Employees must be paid a minimum of \$9 per hour. Program must be activated within 5 days of employee start date. To learn more call Debbie Smith at Greater North Development Corporation at 637-2416 ex. 228.

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