

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF BEVIN BUCHEISTER AND ELLEN MOYER

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE FUNDING FOR THE
EISENHOWER GOLF COURSE LEGISLATION

- POS funds for acquisition of land and development projects cannot be combined. They are potentially available only independent of each other. There is \$515,000 available for development projects and \$2.1 million available for acquisition of land. Therefore, only \$515,000 is potentially available for development projects.
- The City does not have an automatic legal right to the funds in either case. The City would have to apply for the funds for development and the State would have to accept the project before any funds for development would be available. The application could be denied and revisions to the application could be denied. There are application requirements set forth in the State Code.
- A development project to be approved would have to conform to the City's Comprehensive Plan and would have to be approved by State and City planning departments.
- Estimates from the County indicate that the cost of improvements to the golf course would cost up to about \$8 million.
- The City would have to match 25% of the POS funds made available by the State for development projects.
- At most, the City would be eligible, if an application is approved, for \$515,000 in POS funds, leaving the City about \$7.5 million short of the funds needed for golf course improvements assuming the estimate of \$8 million is approximately correct.
- The City would have to continue to maintain the golf course at its own expense each year, cutting into revenue the City would obtain from greens fees.
- The City does not have employee staff to maintain a golf course and would have to hire a manager at City expense, also cutting into revenue the City would obtain from greens fees.
- The City's revenue from greens fees fluctuates annually. Recent annual revenue has been in the range of \$175,000 to \$200,000.