

Good afternoon all. In light of the many questions regarding Program Open Space funds and the sale of the golf course, I would like to remind and restate the facts regarding the County and the City in regards to POS. As the County's Liaison Officer for this "grant reimbursement program" I am hoping the following bullets will be of some help as you consider and debate the pending legislation in front of you tonight:

- \* The County's Annual Program is the only one recognized by DNR so the City has no **legal** claim to these funds.
- \* Any projects, acquisition or development must be submitted for reimbursement by the County on the City's behalf.
- \* The program has two components 50% for acquisition, 50% for development. The development funds requires a 25% match meaning we are only allowed to submit at 75% reimbursement.
- \* The only time we are allowed to use acquisition funds is when a county has met it's acquisition goals; currently at 30 acres per 1,000 citizens, which we have not. When goals are met the program will reimburse at 90%.
- \* The County decides if and how they share their POS allocation with it's incorporated municipalities.
- \* There are several municipalities around the state with no access to these funds. The Community Parks and Playgrounds grant program was created specifically to offset the needs of municipalities.
- \* The County agreed years ago to share it's POS funding with the city at a rate of 7% (population data at that time) for both acquisition and development. There is no formal agreement nor binding MOU, just a commitment that can vary from administration to administration depending on their priorities. Any deviation to this formula would also lie with the current Administration
- \* The Department of Recreation and Parks seeks to protect these funds from state cuts by encumbering as much funding as possible for current development and acquisition projects until the city identifies viable projects.
- \* The Department of Recreation and Parks keeps a record of both acquisition and development POS funds allocated to the City and will work their projects into our Annual Program as identified.
- \* The City's current balance on record is \$515,862.00 for development only and \$2,122,866.00 for acquisition.
- \* The purchase of the golf course will **not** have a negative impact to that fund balance.

I hope this clears up much of the questions and misinformation that has been circulating as of late.

Rick Anthony  
Director  
AACounty Recreation & Parks