
2014 City of Elmhurst Citizen Survey

SECTION III

GENERAL COMMENTS - 2014

I don't have any poor ranks, but the cost to live in Elmhurst and DuPage County is driving out the older population and I am not referring to senior citizens-but just the population 50 and above-which give the city stability and quality of living. It is a great place to live but the taxes are killing a lot of middle class citizens and becoming more of an affluent suburb, like, Hinsdale; Oak Brook. There needs to be a place middle class can live with all the benefits of safety, services, security, etc. without the high taxes.

Property taxes are too high and keep rising, and the service gets worse, the flooding gets worse, the streets are poor. What I receive for the enormous amount of taxes is very poor.

The priorities of this town are mind-boggling. The appearance of impropriety with the 6-story garage in the face of all the flooding that goes on annually, and declaring the streets No Wake zones are a huge embarrassment. It would also be nice if Code Enforcement enforced some codes now and again. The nice part is the people using the taxpayer's dollars to line their own pockets will eventually be dead, and the town will still be here. History will look back at this period of time (The ten pounds of crap in a five-pound bag era) and laugh at the misguided individuals who forever changed the complexion of the town and the sheep that allowed it to happen.

I'm frustrated by the condition of streets due to the digging/patching that occurs when new homes are built. There's not a block around me, that doesn't have holes and bumps in its streets, due to all this construction. Make the folks building new homes fix the streets back up!

Elmhurst is not earth conscious. The level of CONCRETE in Elmhurst is dangerous. The McMansions are causing flooding...too much concrete on these houses, not enough natural land. The proposed garage at 6 stories is frightening. Please, please consider the destruction of our natural land in Elmhurst. The homes that are not maintained in Elmhurst by owners and/or rentals, is also ruining the value of our homes. These codes need to be reinforced. We have a lot of slumlords in Elmhurst, and this should be addressed.

If property taxes continue on their current trajectory, many will choose to leave Elmhurst once their children finish school.

The quality of businesses and restaurants as well as the variety is declining quickly. Partly to do with the lack of shopper/diner parking options, partly to do with what I believe is terrible city retail planning... how many ice cream/frozen yogurt shops can we have in one 4 block radius? We need retail and dining options that will bring in the residents of the surrounding towns: Think Prasino's restaurant in LaGrange. We go there often because of the quality of the food and the experience we have. The old Plass space is perfect for a kids/family friendly kid's diner, which would bring in families from around the area; or, how about some sort of space with

outdoor dining where multiple restaurants are adjacent to each other? Making it a strolling city would pay dividends. As for the retail options, while I do love Red E, it is very expensive. So our retail ranges from very high in price to low price with low quality. It would be a smart move, to put in something like a small Gap that would drive in other businesses. A home decoration store or two would be nice. I constantly am driving to La Grange or Hinsdale to shop.

3.8: When we moved here in 1968, for the most part there were two beautiful Elm parkway trees for each home. Now, sometimes, when trees have to be taken down due to Dutch Elm disease, only one parkway tree is planted instead of two. Also, don't understand why the homeowner can't be reimbursed for planting a parkway tree instead of having the City do it (the cost the City would pay for a tree). 7.2: We use the library for genealogy purposes. 12.2: (s.) Other - It is difficult and expensive to get rid of yard waste. 12.3: (s.) Other - We DO NOT want to see parks and schools ruined with water retention ponds. We don't feel we should be penalized with higher taxes for upgrading our property. The new home construction is great but the enforcement of the work site is poor, especially when the sidewalks are unusable. Need better enforcement regarding parking on streets during snowstorms.

I think we need to do more to reduce the skunk population. I spend 9 months out of the year doing "skunk patrol" every morning and night so my poor dog can go out. It's tiresome.

Need Police foot patrols in City Centre and around parks.

I am concerned about increasing home burglaries in the area.

Increase drug enforcement and prevention in the school system. My children go to York and Sandburg. They know who the drug dealers and drug users are. Step up enforcement to enhance the learning environment. Continue efforts to build up the downtown business district. Why aren't there more eating establishments like Oak Park? Increase enforcement of failure to stop at stop signs. There have to be other creative solutions to improve the safety of walkers and bikers. Support efforts for home energy efficiency. Maybe hold an energy efficiency program and fair.

As people get older, they may want the space of a home or townhome instead of a condo but it does not seem that anyone is building homes or townhomes with first floor bedrooms and master baths. This would be very helpful to keeping retirees in Elmhurst.

Please address the stormwater and flooding issues as soon as possible, particularly in south Elmhurst. I have flooded twice and it is just a horrible experience to go through. From where I sit, little, if anything, has been done to address this on my street, Euclid Ave. While Washington street has had some work done, we on Euclid, have not. Every time we have a heavy rain, my street floods. It is absolutely ridiculous that this continues to happen. The overheard sewer program is far too expensive for homeowners and should be free or a far more minimal charge

for those of us that live on streets with major flooding problems. If citizens that live near Midway Airport can get free triple pane windows to minimize airport noise, why can't we get a free overhead sewer?

Please do something to improve the quality of the schools in our part of town. Flooding is a constant threat and mosquitoes are present every season.

The city hasn't listened to the citizens about the flooding and problems with the storm sewer infrastructure. They keep allowing builders to tear down and build huge houses - forcing all downspouts and sump pumps to be buried into the storm sewers. We also fought for years for sidewalks-had numerous petitions to get them & then told money isn't in budget or scared people by marking trees to be cut down. Our youngest is now a senior at York but as a kindergartner, walking home from the bus stop, in the streets, was outrageous.

Construction workers and contractors in residential areas get away with damaging streets and neighboring properties. New building and "renovation" construction sites that last more than a year and are ugly, dirty, muddy, and force runoff to neighbor's yards are demoralizing to neighborhoods and devalue our properties. Contractors need to be held to higher standards. Also, public works has been unresponsive to our requests to clear culverts and swales that are on city owned property; including, roadways and city right of ways.

I contacted the refuse department twice about the correct method of having a large item picked up and was never called back despite leaving messages. Also, the streets need to be refinished in my neighborhood and stop signs installed on Howard Ave north of Belden and south of Fullerton. People speed in our neighborhood fairly often and it's dangerous since kids play in the driveways/street. Finally, it would be nice to have a COSTCO and Lowes/Home Depot/Menards in Elmhurst in the N. York Corridor.

Removed trees needs to be replaced. While city services are very good, taxes/price of the tiny lots is high compared to other suburbs. Flooding needs to be resolved. This alone would be a reason our family would leave Elmhurst! It would be nice to have more fine dining in town. While the quality of education is great, the structures are aging and will needs retrofitting. Would like to see more speed control for side streets. High school and college drivers speed down my side street all the time and usually ignore the yield signs. It's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Maybe yield signs should be replaced by stop signs. The addition of Mariano's is great; it would be nice to have a higher end grocer near downtown.

Freight train congestion and traffic congestion are my two biggest issues with Elmhurst.

Please re-surface Madison from Spring to York Road...it is in terrible shape...dangerous to drive/ride a bike. Great job in re-surfacing Spring road!

City governing boards (Park District and School Board) move too slow, and do too little to stay informed on safety and necessity of life matters - specifically storm water management.

Would like to see better enforcement of train whistle code at night. Better hazardous waste disposal opportunities.

Stop the bickering in City Council. Get to the issue of reducing budget and/or attracting more business that generate tax revenues...not BANKS or parking decks. People are moving out b/c the tax ratios are too high. We'll move as soon as kids are done with school. Not staying b/c of school, but because of their friends.

2.12: Police are not very visible along Spring Rd after dark. Drunks continually leave the bars & drive away TOO fast. 3.14, 16: Refuse & Recycling-My house on Spring Rd is OFTEN skipped. I always have the toters out 12 hours in advance EVEN correctly (not a day earlier than most people) on Holiday weeks, and STILL the trucks leave my garbage and/or recycling containers full. Lately they'll empty one & not the other. Yet I have to pay the SAME amount as everyone else. 4.8: Spring Rd speed limit in the bus district area is not enforced, especially after dark. I am the ONLY person driving the speed limit, most are going over 45. Also, continual U-turns are made by shoppers & drunks w/o regard to traffic in either direction. I narrowly avoid getting run over daily. 5.3: Special Events - WHY are ALL parades on Spring Rd? My driveway is blocked for hours, yet I can't park on the street during that time. Can we use York Rd? Another street? (For blocking/parades) 5.8:- (other) Junk mail circulars. 6.3-5: I get curt answers from receptionists on my inquiries about refuse & recycling, and told, "too bad, we all have that service". My other question to them was WHY do we all pay the same price? I am one person in a tiny house (often skipped), why do I pay the same rate as a family of 12 with cats & dogs? Can't there be a prorated amount? I will NEVER have the same amount of trash. 9.9: See all of the above. 10.1: See all of the above. What do you think of my rating? 10.3: All I know is, many are overpaid for what little gets done in certain areas. 10.4: See all of the above. 10.9: Not everyone on the planet has "SMS" or texting or whatever you call it. How about a "normal" e-mail or TV interrupt? You do it for the storm warnings. 12.1: (other) Quantity of bike paths & bike routes Addendum: What's with the exclusive contract for Spring Rd Internet access? I live in a house (not an apartment), and I'm told I have NO CHOICE in internet service providers/I HAVE to have AT&T. Told it's a City of Elmhurst ordinance. Does the city spend its money on keeping the competition away? I'm not saying I would change companies, but I'd like the choice to make that decision.

I have lived in Elmhurst since 1956 and enjoyed working for the city. The biggest problem the city has is that a few of the alder persons want to be "anti" almost everything that comes in front of the council. Being in real estate, Elmhurst is still a very desirable community to live and raise a family in. This being substantiated by the increase in new construction and home sales. I would hope that decisions made by the council and committees will not stifle the growth.

Until you have equitable management of sewage and storm water, then the property values and quality of life will deteriorate for those of us on the south end of town.

The loss of Dominic's at Elmhurst Crossing is deeply regretted. At the moment, Jewel has stepped up to the plate but could take advantage of the reduced competition in the future. Wholefoods is not an adequate replacement as it is too specialized and limited in its offerings. Mariano's produce quality is poor.

As a city, our taxes are way too high. We have too many city workers, spend too much on education, and our assessments for the library are ridiculously high. You provide too much service taxes and assessments. Membership at the Courts is too high for a community facility. Implement a program like other cities where we can put leaves in the street and they just get picked up. It's easier & saves time, money, and energy on bagging leaves. Consider pension reform and reductions for city workers. Move to 401Ks like private industry.

12.2: - Other Home Safety: i.e., Burglary/Break-ins. Three major things need to be addressed: Flooding!! Happens too often/last too long Home Break-ins/Burglary/Crime - on the up rise.

Houses too big on lots too small - no yards for kids to play in. I can't stay/retire here. My taxes are too high for what's going to be a tear down - older smaller home. The only time we see a squad car around here is if you call them. I've called about strange cars with occupants & builder working until late at night. It takes so long for the police to come; by the time they arrive, the people are usually gone. Code enforcement sucks; everyone around me does everything & anything they want without permits. The city could rake in a small fortune in fines in my area alone!

1) Chickens should be allowed - they have been productive backyard enviro-friendly animals for years. Their prohibition is absurd. 2) Lincoln Elementary school is a major disappointment. 3) There should be sidewalks on all blocks within walking distance of all elementary & secondary schools. 4) Snow removal on neighborhood streets this year was abysmal - at best.

12.2: Other - My family & I enjoy living in Elmhurst; however, we're disappointed how frequent non-residents use our Park with little care - Butterfield Location! 12.3: (s.) Other - The Butterfield Park is going to fall apart with the transient people/nonresidents who don't clean it! We pay lots of tax \$\$ & Butterfield Park should not look like that. Comments: Dear Sirs or Madams: As you can see, we reside off York & Butterfield. My primary complaint is the appearance of Butterfield Park. It is absolutely a disgrace in the Spring and Summer. Transient people have the privilege to rent our Parks and not pick up their share with little penalty. We pay lots of \$\$\$ in tax dollars and this shouldn't even occur. A recommendation is to increase the park rental (could filter people) or start fining individuals who don't maintain the grounds. Thus, it saddens me to see our own neighbors pick up after outsiders! Please help us have a

better park!!!

Would like more cultural events in the city. Outdoor concerts in the summer and movies & speakers in public venues.

I am upset about the lack of information given to residents about the rezoning on south side of Butterfield, (west of Prospect). I found out about it from the bank that wants to move there (Providence). I guess the city has planned to develop this area into commercial over 10 years ago. This info was not disseminated well to the local residents. We should be part of that decision. Most of us don't want it rezoned. We would like to have Elmhurst City re-examine their decision.

5.14: - Additional comment: I did shop in Elmhurst when there were bookstores, hardware.

The quality of parkway trees needs improvement. Trimming them would cause less damage during storms. For three years, I tried to get parkway trees removed. Two years ago, I finally got one removed with an Alderman's help. Storm during July 2012, two other trees were removed. That only happened because a car parked in front was totaled. I had to call and have someone come back out to check the third tree and explain to city employee why it needed to also come down. Why did it take losing a car to get this done? Keep and get all trees trimmed. By trimming, I am not referring to leaving half a tree near wires. They should look attractive, not freakish.

1.1: - Fair - Construction Destroying Streets. 1.8: - (c.) Worse - Too many homes with cars in front loading garages driveway. Unaddressed flood issue!! 3.12: - Poor - Blacktop repairs? TIF is wrong!! 3-car garage should be required on all new homes with 4 or more bedrooms having a front attached garage. Fix the sewer and stormwater issues. City water too costly... Raise fees on new construction and service (landscaping, dry cleaning, etc.), not homeowner.

12.2: - City Services - Trees & Animals

I am not impressed with the Police Dept. I am also very tired of my family being harassed here (in schools, and on the streets), as well as at facilities that we frequent. Elmhurst caters to the self-entitled, the mob, and bullies. This is a sad case for a pretty town.

As a resident of Elmhurst, I am pleased with the city and the area. Have lived here since 1950's.

I enjoy living in Elmhurst and find the quality of life to be very good.

Too lax on teardowns - no regard for surrounding homes; Too lax on builders. City Council not responsive to resident concerns - Hahn Street; Addison Parking

I am very concerned about the abuse of heroin that appears to be happening in Elmhurst. We

have known of three overdose deaths of young people in the past 2 years. (2 from our local church, 1 in the neighborhood). If we are really on the "heroin highway" or whatever they call North Ave., something must be done. Parents must do their part, but the city needs to be sure the children do not have easy access to drugs. Parking is still the main issue for me. It is just easier to shop almost anywhere else than in Elmhurst!

Maintaining streets, flooding, more police patrols in certain areas, remove vehicle sticker fees, more services, or tax reductions for people with disabilities.

In the past, I have experienced communication problems with public employees. The employee uses tactics unacceptable in government employment. When it comes to complaints and explanations, the government employee uses bad tactics, which creates hostile response from city owners. City Government is run more like a business, than service and offerings, to help with the city owner needs. I am sorry to say that Elmhurst Government has gotten to be more of a bureaucracy than what citizens need when they call.

10.8: - Animal Control - Not enough- We do have coyotes in backyard periodically. Athletic facilities are average in Elmhurst. Very little options for indoor Basketball, Soccer for youth to use on a regular basis. Many surrounding cities are adding updated recreational facilities for entire families to use.

11.5: - West of York, South of North Ave

We truly enjoy living in a luxurious home that provides us secure assurance and the beauty of our atmosphere surroundings in this elegant town!

Need better control of parking at City Center Lot at Palmer and Schiller. Too much daytime parking is used by EGG Harbor cafe. There is often no room to park for Walgreens customers. I can't always go to Walgreens at night.

I live on Spring Road north of Madison street and I never see police monitoring the speed. No one ever goes 25 mph on Spring Road and there are a lot of children who play in their front yards. We need the police to monitor this side of Spring Road as they do down by Eldridge Park.

The city needs to attract more businesses to downtown and not more yogurt places. Viable businesses that will drive traffic into the city centre; some new restaurants that aren't fast food. We eat outside of Elmhurst all the time as the only restaurant we will frequent (for nice sit-down food) is Francesca's and we can only eat there once or twice a month; we like variety. Niche clothing stores are great and unique but there needs to be a bigger draw to the city that people will consistently come back to and that will drive traffic from other cities as well. Also, need to improve cool cars; - it was a bust last year. Not sure what happened but my 8 year old was disappointed with the lack of cars. We started going elsewhere and not wasting our time

on Wednesday nights going to Elmhurst's cool cars that just wasn't cool. Also, the proposal to get rid of the hot dog lady - that's ridiculous. Focus on the things that matter like growing downtown rather than eliminating another proprietor. I grew up in Milwaukee and downtown Elmhurst is starting to remind me of Milwaukee many years ago - after the people left downtown to go home from work, it was dead. That's what downtown Elmhurst is like these days... besides the traffic on York, there's not much life down there except for teens hanging out in city centre. My money goes to other communities, unfortunately, that have more to offer.

I am concerned about the vacancies in City Centre. Parking is very important to draw in new tenants. I would like to see the new parking garage and then an improvement made to the existing parking lot in the center area b/w York/Addison. We need to draw more businesses to improve the community

To be fair there was a huge amount of snow this year, but I felt that snow removal and trash pickup lagged in our area in the Northwest part of town.

Better control in reducing speeders and stop sign abusers.

Elmhurst has very high taxes. Baseball fields are sub-par, especially when comparing them to many other communities.

I've seen so many houses being torn down for luxury homes and two things bother me; waiting to see the taxes go down on my little house and hoping our streets in Elmhurst would be repaired soon. They are awful due to the large trucks destroying them!

There is absolutely no reason to build a new parking garage on Addison St. The retail space and empty stores need to be filled before building more. There is nothing special on Addison St to attract people there. Why doesn't the chamber of commerce do its job and go after fun and attractive businesses to come to Elmhurst? There is so much potential for Elmhurst if they attract better shops and businesses in our empty spaces. The North York project is badly needed. Why not a major hardware store? Out of the box thinking is sorely needed in City Council. Not more of the same. (Clue) Take a look at what the City of Rosemont is doing.

We have an Elmhurst address but we are not part of your schools and Park District. We have tried to get back into your community but we are not wanted (Pick subdivision). If you tried this, the city would be perfect.

Rain water in yards. Flooding, stormwater management needs to be high priority. This is an eye sore to all of Elmhurst!!!

12.2: - (l.) (exception: snow removal) Elmhurst is a great town. Schools are great, quality of life

is great, and the neighborhoods are great. City service is good! Street maintenance needs to be improved, with more frequent repaving of streets. Sidewalk maintenance is poor. The selective sidewalk repair and the 50/50 program are aesthetically unpleasing and too expensive. Makes neighborhoods look trashy. Need more shopping in Elmhurst, north of I290 & downtown. Taxes are increasing too much per year - large chunks to pension contributions must be controlled.

4.13: - I work and live in Elmhurst. 7.8: - But the Lizzardo Museum. - Yes 8.7: Don't pay anything online. 12.3: - Too many teardowns - changing the look of Elmhurst - Too many McMansions
The town is starting to look stupid.

As of 3/22 lots of garbage around hospital - inside and outside fences. Poor comment: It will be difficult to retire in Elmhurst - Higher taxes for schools needed, so choices must be made.

1. Some city decisions seem to take forever. 2. The waiting area for westbound commuters is in very poor condition. 3. Some streets are in very poor condition. Others are excellent. 4. With the traffic on York Street, Parallels street parking is different.

The ongoing Addison Parking structure project is a real black eye. To me, it does not meet the "smell test".

My side door in garage is falling apart and the rats, etc. are coming in. I had to clean all that.

1. Taxes 2. 18% Increase every year in Chicago water, but why sewer is attached to the increase in water 3. Declining home values

We love our city! Would love to see lower taxes, along with school reform...better spending of money, more bang for our buck in terms of educational issues. Better teachers. There is no reason why we shouldn't be noted right up there with Hinsdale Central. The parental support is there, we have it.

The hearings for the parking garage were a scam, and you fooled NO ONE. The decision was already made, we all knew it.

Skunks, fix this problem.

After planting trees, please repair damaged lawns with quality black dirt and quality seed. Two years after my parkway trees were planted; my lawn is still a mess. Tire tracks, rocks, and poor quality dirt.

1.3:1 - High Taxes 2.17: - (b.) - Need to make more stops at York and Madison St. Cars not stopping. 9.13: - Poor - City Hall not transparent enough. Need good newspaper. 9.14: - (j.) Other - Need independent newspaper to report on City Hall & Council meetings.

2.23: - Unsafe - Youth on skateboards 5.10: - (d.) Other - None until you can control the youth on skate boards. 10.8: - Skunks 12.1: - Prairie Path

Police response during April flood was less than satisfactory. Poplar was just as impassable as the underpass on tone. Traffic from expressway should not be allowed to use podism as a bypass

7.22: - (j.) Other - Bike Race -terrible...could not get to our house at all. Very inconvenient!!

Officials must understand the importance of natural water retention and stop allowing a 1000 sq. ft. tear down to be replaced with a 4000 sq. ft. home. Less apartments, stores, hospitals etc...taking our precious natural water retention and using our basements and yards instead!!!

I understand there is an underpass but often trains block various crossings by coming to a complete stop, irritating. Tax dollars are not being spent on infrastructure, mainly streets. The streets in general are in poor shape. Don't agree with a 6-story garage on Addison, as senior citizen will not use. Concerned about increase in water prices! Any recourse? Lastly, I think the garbage can contract is unfair-especially to senior citizens. One price does not fit all. Why not pay as you go? Put a sticker on can only when I set out can. We do not fill up can every week. The can is huge. Recycle can is better but still too big. Any chance for change?

I just moved to Elmhurst so I am still developing most of my opinions.

I'm not sure how helpful my response will be to your results. My husband grew up here, and I am a transplant from Peoria. We decided to settle in Elmhurst because of the mixture of ages, old growth trees, and varied neighborhoods. Elmhurst looked "settled" unlike Lisle where I taught, with its brand new subdivisions. What was true about Elmhurst is true today- it is still the best place to live- and close to the grandchildren too!

The cans for refuse collection are too big and heavy for me to use and pull to the curb. Seniors are being priced out of Elmhurst!

12.2: (s.) Other - Power issues, although they have improved recently 12.3: - Other - Power Issues. Need to address flooding and power issue. Some residents have never lost power in 20 years. Some residents never flood. Everyone should have same experience. Seeing way too much back and forth on parking lot project...Make A DECISION!!!

We need new or upgrade of storm sewers! We don't live in a "flood zone", but we had two, "once every 100 years" floods in the past four years. In both floods, we had several feet of water in the basement and had to replace several major appliances. Something REALLY has to be done.

Taxes are high for seniors. Really should offer more free services for seniors. Like free snow

removal, free leaf pickup. Way too many basements flooded. Should have more control of this to keep property values up.

We don't need any more fast food businesses. Wish we were getting Trader Joe's instead of Whole Foods. Some of the residential streets are in very poor condition.

Some people are allowed to live like slob, not maintaining their yard and making others' property values go down. Attracting skunks, raccoons, and stray cats, making it hard to go into your own yard at dusk/dark. No enforcement is visible in not blocking intersection, making it hard to leave your own street.

12.2: – (s.) Other - Dated appearance of shopping areas/store fronts, South and North Elmhurst.

12.2: - No comment...we love Elmhurst. My husband taught at Timothy Christian School for 42 years and City of Elmhurst has always been supportive of Private Schools. We have been very thankful that we could live in Elmhurst and raise our 4 children here.

As a senior (87 years) - nearly 59 of these years spent in Elmhurst; We enjoyed our neat little house and raised our two sons here. I can remember 3 dept. stores - Ruby's - Elm Dept. - Ouswanes - in the middle of town - Grants-Plass - Nothing has taken their place. No places for seniors to shop; Kohl's -yes...but not in the middle of town. Property Owners take pride in their homes - "Not Renters".

Having been a resident for many years of North Elmhurst (36-50 yr. group), I am wondering and still waiting for the day this area is recognized by the City as something other than 'skunk hollow'. Why does it not deserve maintaining? Viaduct clean-up, street & curbs clean? Maintained landscaping and so on...Parkways.

There are so many new homes in Elmhurst. These homes are probably paying two to three times more real estate taxes than what the previous homes had paid. Why do our real estate taxes keep going up?

I really enjoy living in Elmhurst. The city, residents, and community are wonderful. There are certain infrastructure concerns, such as flooding problems that need to be addressed in a more timely manner. I would like to see a traditional bakery (doughnuts, baked goods, etc.).

1) Something needs to be done about the skunk problem in Elmhurst. I'm afraid to leave my dog out in the yard after dark. 2) When I moved into my current residence, I assumed that the rear-yard drain in the utility easement part of my backyard was part of city services. This past year I found out that, the sewer line is not even listed on current city maps, and that the city is not responsible for flooding issues regarding the rear-yard drain that affects me and my neighbors.

2.19: - Three Years Ago

12.2: (s.) Other - Power Outages 12.3: (s.) Other - Power Outages

Quality of public schools is getting from bad to worse. Example: Conrad Fisker did not pass the certification.

12.2: – (s.) Other - Real Estate Taxes The City caters to builders and is too flexible with what they allow them to do. I have seen cases like 2 healthy parkway trees being cut down just because the builder wanted to move the driveway from where it currently was (tear down & rebuild). The City Council and school district do not act like they are spending their own money. As a result, they raise taxes too easily - making it more and more difficult for senior citizens and others to afford Elmhurst and ultimately resulting in more vacancies in downtown Elmhurst commercial sites.

We (my wife & I) find it hard to shop in town because prices are so high compared to other stores elsewhere. Notice the price/gal at Shell on York & 3rd! Also, City stickers are very high, being some towns don't even require them. And water delivery is going up? Come on already! Under Section 4 of the survey - the speed limit is 25 mph, so why do people go 40mph or more when on our street? The SMART Trailer makes no difference, & the police are elsewhere. And you might as well remove the stop signs at Addison & Fremont because very few people actually stop. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my opinions!

Very good Library; sometimes parking is bad. Few flooding Problems

3.12: No Sidewalk 12.2: No Sidewalks 12.2: Lack of stores, like Home Depot, Homegoods, Target, etc. within city limits. SIDEWALKS-Should be included on the North side of the City to make it more SAFE and cohesive in appearance. SCHOOLS-we need to address the issue of North Elmhurst schools. It isn't fair that one side of town has great schools and the North side has diverse, Spanish-speaking schools. New lines should be drawn or disbursement of students.

5.10: – (d.) Other - I never shop in Elmhurst it's too expensive. 12.1:- (o.) Other - It's too expensive to live retired in this town. Taxes are too high on everything. 12.2: – (s.) Other - It's not a good place for a retired person on social security with limited funds. Comments: It's time for the City to look at elderly and retired people's plight. Lower property taxes, vehicle taxes, sales taxes, fees for everything. Not all retirees have pensions or other income sources to supplement S.S., plus the increases in healthcare in general...where are the concern for seniors?

5.11: - No More Restaurants Please!! 5.11: (g.) Other - Large office supply for duplicating, supplies [Office Max]) 12.1: o. - Elmhurst College 12.2: (o.) - Stop light timing 12.3: - (s.) Other - Cost of garbage pick-up

Dismayed by exclusion policies of the public library. More needs to be done to prevent flooding. More needs to be done to get people to shovel sidewalk in winter. More traffic speed control, especially in residential neighborhood. 9.13: Has been difficult to find info about old hospital plans

Parking for shopping is often a problem - hard to fix Speeding on North Ave and other main roads is common. During the Winter months, the streets could be serviced better.

1. Traffic enforcement at grade schools at 3:00pm (Jefferson School). Cars speeding south on Poplar Ave. People not stopping at stop sign, talking on cell phones, parking across cross walks. Someday a child will be injured or killed. 2. Vehicle sticker enforcement. At least 8 cars on my block do not have stickers or old ones. Around my block, at least 10 people do not have a sticker. Most are long time renters. 3. Price too high for vehicle stickers. Maybe if more enforcement for stickers, maybe price would be less. Other towns like Lombard have done away with stickers. 4. Parking downtown Elmhurst is very difficult or impossible. 5. People parking across sidewalks from driveways.

10.1: - Poor - Taxes too high, specifically pension portion. 10.8: - Private Property Stormwater assistance - Good job on this one! 12.2: (s.) - Other - Pension costs on taxes need to go to 401k equivalent. 12.3: (s.) Other - School crowding/redistricting The influx of new residents with little kids (0-3) is massive. (This is compliment to Elmhurst). I can easily see the schools getting more crowded, leading to eventual redistricting. (With some Elmhurst residents getting distributed out). If that occurred, I would simply eat the \$50k drop in property value and move closer to City Centre, for kid's sake. But I would be tremendously pissed (obviously). I live 1 block from Jackson Elementary and I'm fearful this could happen at some point. Would greatly appreciate alleviating my concerns. I rated sewer/storm water low because we had sewer backup but I do think you're aware/working on it.

Not all residents have computers, so not able to be aware of news for Elmhurst, and any financial short-comings.

As a place to retire, Elmhurst is too expensive for retirees to pay property taxes. As to police presence, a few homes in my neighborhood have been burglarized in broad daylight, I never see police cars on my street, and people regularly speed on side streets. As to being informed of city actions, I think it was a waste of taxpayer money to put a median on Berkeley Ave at the prairie path. It was unnecessary and has already deteriorated. Why is there still a stop sign on Schiller Ave at the old Elmhurst Memorial Hospital parking lot? As much as we pay in taxes, we shouldn't have to pay for yard waste pick up too!

12.2: Train traffic

9.15: Power outages. No questions in regards to our schools, why? Elmhurst is heading in a very

bad direction-class size, low pay for support staff, influx of special need children, (some that are taking advantage of services-they don't live in their district) Too many families/children renting in a single family house, drugs, etc.

Very concerned about the heroin use/distribution in Elmhurst. This drug has become way to common in our city. The police department needs to track down the distributors/users and make an example of them. We need the city of Elmhurst to continue being the "safe" town its always been advertised as.

We have lived in Elmhurst for 29 years. It is a great city with good schools and beautiful neighborhoods. Our children were born and raised here. I would ask our city officials and Aldermen to please seriously look at the city budgets. Our property taxes have skyrocketed to over \$13,000. We will not be able to afford to retire here and now that our children are in college, we are considering leaving the community and friends that we love. Our senior citizens do not have unlimited funds. These are difficult financial times and spending should be minimized.

Fill potholes

The city and the county need to operate like a family does - control spending. You can't continue to raise people's taxes every year to solve financial problems. You have to consider the cost side of the equation as well. My annual property tax bill is nearly \$20k. It has gone up every year since I have owned this house (2007); even in years when my home value was declining.

Train noise, worse-freight UP, Flooding issues, and Street conditions-every year.

6.5: New Construction permits should fully fund appropriate inspection staff to maintain high standard of construction safety. 9.6: On mailing list/all bills 9.9: Mostly because of Google-quicker to navigate via Google search. 9.10: But go electronic 9.11: In person only 9.14: The issue is timely content-not which medium. Online notice and email blast to residents-there's an unfortunate history of city announcing major projects (parking garage, lot development) when it is almost too late to raise alternatives. It gives the city a black eye. "Done Deals" would be received less cynically if there were more public involvement early in process. Not city's job. Not its core competence. City's job is to create thoughtful, viable planning and high quality infrastructure and services. Private projects should be to be build/lease risks. Really want to stress that variances from our long-term zoning plan are a MAJOR issue. The city venturing into publicly financed commercial development. 10.1: (fair/poor) and declining. Worse value proposition that in 2000. 10.2: (h) Aldermen 10.7: Committee reports help a lot. 10.8: Overspent on fire & police in last 5-10 years. OK service/not great value. Equipment over hill. Why do we need \$100,000 police cruisers? (as small example). Street Maintenance: declining. We pick litter up on our block ourselves. Sidewalk Maintenance: lagging Tree maint./planting:

very glad we plant and maintain trees well all over town. Library programs/serv.: WONDERFUL offerings-We're lucky to have Refuse: Friends say Villa Park is cheaper and better. Water Prod.: Too expensive Stormwater: City should levy fees on buildings and homes according to percent of permeable surface/lot line to lot line. 10.9: Candor & timeliness. 11.2: Both people replied 12.2: OTHER: Long delays when trains block traffic-train crossings. TAXES: have exploded relative to size of population in last 20-30 yrs. BUILDING/ZONING: too lax 12.3: OTHER Costs of School District 205. Out-of-town students masquerading as Elmhurst residents. Administrative inefficiencies. West Ave/St. Charles intersection-turn lanes and lights can't handle current traffic capacity. Traffic backs up too often & too long. Left-hand turn lane for northbound traffic from West to St. Charles needed. Elmhurst College keeps taking central property off the tax roll yet depends on city services and overuse city and park parking lots. Local retail service business isn't enough to compensate. Could we sell parking passes to college in our parking garage spaces or have college "buy" parts of the city garages? Share community costs more. Foot traffic in college view and abuse of Library/Wilder Mansion parking lots by college traffic are causing ill will.

5.11: Clothing: Men/Women

North Graue Woods area has a serious problem with stormwater drainage since there are no storm sewers and the swales that are supposed to manage water runoff have NEVER been maintained in the 11 years we have lived in this house. Same for the galvanized pipes that are to convey water from swale to swale under streets and driveways. Public works has been completely unresponsive about this and about providing sandbags. There are times when my driveway is a running river of storm water 6 inches deep as the swales cannot handle drainage of this neighborhood. The path that was to be Sidney Street is not maintained and the kids have to walk through there to get to school and buses... quite often there is poison ivy and the weeds are overtaking the path. Also, this path should be lit for most part of the year, it is dark when the kids are catching buses to school or returning home from school. Crime - given the changing demographics of Villa Park, Bensenville, and Berkeley, Elmhurst is likely to see an increase in crime in the future. Police presence in my neighborhood-given that North Graue Woods is all dead-end streets, we rarely see police cars patrolling our streets.

Live on South St- Rarely see police cruisers- if ever cut through traffic in morning and evening hours- creates excess speeds.

Streets in North Elmhurst are horrible with huge holes everywhere. Too many empty storefronts and empty car dealer lots. New houses are getting too tall.

1.8: Only lived here one year. 5.7: Only lived here one year. 12. Snow removal on side streets. We love living in Elmhurst. There's a lot to do (although we don't take advantage of it all!). We really like the sense of community in our neighborhood and on our street. We're looking forward to "Whole Foods" opening. We were very disappointed with the snow removal in our

neighborhood-not sure this is normal or just due to the horrible winter here. This is the first full winter we've lived here.

Snow removal was terrible; streets (side) were horribly plowed. Appearance of some private property is unacceptable.

5.11: I still miss Baileys non-spicy American restaurant. Computer Store with tech support. My aldermen e-mails updates on a regular basis. Too much train whistle blowing. The gates are already down. If you drive around them, you deserve to get hit. More blowing will not help. Caution should be used to prevent increased airplane noise. I do not like to see the zoning committee grant variances on the height of new construction in downtown. I question the percentage of land covered with new residential construction. Green space seems to be less than 25% in many cases. (I think 25% is the minimum). Thanks for asking!

I have personally tried to have a city building code review/changed. I found the process totally frustrating and full of red tape and politics. I gave up.

1.5: Taxes too high to retire here. 2.14: Police Department picks on residents instead of going after bad guys. 2.18: Elmhurst Police don't give warnings do they? See notes on last page 2.19: False courtesy with and edge of contempt, Professionalism? Is that what you call writing a parking ticket for 3 hr. 4 min in a 3 hr. zone? See my notes 2.20: There is a sense that our homes are a target for thieves and no one is watching/can do anything. I have a feeling of dread every time I leave my home alone. Burglaries all around. 2.23: Except some Summer weekends night in the Plaza. I do not feel safe. Looks like gangs hang out there. 5.11: I would like to see existing merchants thrive so they stay. What can we do to help them stay.-Bird in the hand. 8.2: They pick up the phone. 8.4: I have dealt with a supervisor. She is terrible. What an awful rep. of the city. 10.1: Taxes are RIDICULOUS and for them we get burglarized homes, overbearing police and discourteous staff at Finance Dept. 10.8: Police protection for petty things-over-staffed police, yet our homes are not safe. Why do they spend time picking on residents and not chase bad guys. Parking enforcement, way too much. 12.2: Police are too rigid and because they have nothing to do, they prey upon residents for insignificant violations like parking for 3 hrs. and 1 min. 12.3: 2&3. Bringing crime & drugs into the city. Comments: The police department has alienated a good number of the residents of Elmhurst. They are more interested in writing tickets (parking, traffic) than listening to anything we have to say to them. I have NO TRUST of the Elmhurst Police!!! They do not have our interests (safety, etc.) in mind only how many tickets they can write. In years past, (10 years ago) you could talk to the police and feel like they listened and were concerned, not now. Now they are macho tough guys who only write tickets. They should go after BAD GUYS not citizens of Elmhurst who did something minor; give us a break. OPTIONAL: If I put my name here the police will TARGET me. No kidding. AND FOR THIS I PAY ALMOST 20k IN REAL ESTATE TAX. Maybe there are too many Police? They have to justify their jobs by writing tickets. Not enough real crime? Then go after the residents! Or maybe it's harder work to go after crime like drugs at the H.S. and easier to pick on

upstanding citizens. Drug problem at York H.S. and outsiders coming into the city to deal drugs.

The generation that built this community is being taxed out of the community. Place an officer (unmarked) at West and St. Charles during morning and evening rush hours, to see poor traffic plans and violations, including snow pushed from business lots onto public property and streets.

Whenever there is a considerable amount of snowfall, I have noticed that on Park Ave, the snow is left in the middle of the street, which I think is very hazardous. When taking my husband to the train in the morning the snow that wasn't paved in the middle of the street makes it especially hazardous for those parking their cars along the tracks and walking in the street to the train. When driving, there is very little room to move around the pedestrians because of the high pile of snow in the middle of the street. This is an accident waiting to happen!

Along the railroad tracks, especially between Geneva and Berteau are not attractive. The fountain at Schiller and York is not an improvement. I would like a bookstore, an electronics store, and a large appliance store. The reason I did not submit this survey on line was when I tried your server was down. City Financials: The budget information available on the city website is virtually incomprehensible. I doubt that most members of the city council understand it, which may explain some of their actions. If you really want the city's financial affairs to be more transparent, you can start by clarifying some of the expenditures in English so a fifth grader can understand. Street maintenance: Street maintenance seems to depend on what part of Elmhurst you're in. There has been a major hole associated with a sewer on First street, east of York for a couple of months. Only recently has the city placed a "horse" in front of the hole, Great. There is supposed to be a 25 MPH speed limit in the city, unless otherwise posted, yet on the 100 block of Clinton there is a speed limit sign indicating 20 MPH. No one knows why. We're not in a school zone. Perhaps it's a mistake but the city can't seem to be bothered. Traffic Control: We have had several occasions when streets in Elmhurst and surrounding areas have flooded. Every time the viaduct at North Ave and 290/294 and cars and trucks (often large trailer trucks) turn down Berteau and then various other surrounding streets. Our streets are not made for large trailer trucks to maneuver and there is no way to get east by going down these streets. Our neighbor stood out on North Ave and Berteau directing traffic for over an hour hoping that the police would show up but no one came. My wife stood on First street giving people directions. Where were the police? You know this will happen again. Be prepared next time. Train Noise/Congestion: There is always a lot of talk about airport noise but there seems to be little or no concern about the noise and congestion caused by the Union Pacific lines. Trains often sit on the tracks for more than 10 minutes sometimes blocking intersections, with engines running because of congestion in the freight yard to the east of Elmhurst. Workmen are constantly working on switches and tracks, early morning with walkie/talkies blaring. They drop their garbage all over the tracks and it blows through the neighborhood. They are not good neighbors and consider Elmhurst just an annex

neighborhood. When I asked about who is responsible for maintenance along the tracks, both the city and UP point to each other. NO one feels responsible. Tree replacement and Maintenance: I really question the quality of the trees being planted and the skills of those planting the trees. Trees planted on the parkway are often too close to the street and are constantly being hit by garbage trucks. Trees near power lines are being trimmed in the most grotesque ways. Trees planted along the tracks are sickly to begin with and then they are never watered. Once when reporting dead branches in need of trimming I was told an oak can only be trimmed in the fall. Of course when the city came out in the fall there were no leaves on the tree so they didn't know what branches needed trimming. How about coming out in the summer and marking branches so you know what to trim later.

5.3: - Poor - Cool Cars 6.4 and 6.5: Poor - Seems that the contractors building in Elmhurst are taken care of and the inspectors (people that come out) take side with contractors over citizens. 10.8: - Traffic Enforcement - Too much - During rush hours and the police make the stop and block the flow of traffic.

Street sweeping should be once a week not once a month. Taxes are too high for future retirement and living in Elmhurst.

Elmhurst must address the flooding problems. We've lost everything in our basement in the past 3 years.

We need more parking. The quality of our sidewalks is "poor." We need more parking at the library.

Skunk Control

Taxes too high to stay in Elmhurst in old age. Hard to walk on sidewalk due to low hanging branches of parkway trees. I290 traffic noise very bad. Why can't we have a high sound fence along expressway like Hinsdale has along the roadway?

50/50 sidewalk: We walk a lot and deal with many very poor sidewalk areas. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. Along with our children and grandchildren, we love living in Elmhurst.

We live on Park Manor Ct; pay the same taxes as everyone else in Elmhurst. When all the streets in our area were resurfaced, ours was not done. It has been patched over the 40 years we have lived here but never resurfaced. It is in very bad condition. Would appreciate it if this can be taken care of. We have lived in this city 58 years and would love to stay in our home but because of the real estate taxes we will probably have to move.

The City has turned a blind eye to its monumental flooding problems the past five years.

Instead of remedying the problem, they approve the building of bigger & bigger homes, which exacerbates the problem. The few minor steps the City is trumpeting now are much too little, far too late.

Sometimes the street sweepers just redistribute the dirt, and leave the street dirtier than they were before they came by. They are not paying attention to what they're doing. I live on the edge of town I guess but there are lots of street without curbs and sidewalks. (Just South of St. Charles and East of West Ave). Overhead wires cause lots of outages, and now this past winter with frozen water pipes, the street (West Ave) is a mess. I know most is weather-related and call me grumpy from cabin fever but climate change is upon us and likely to get worse.

Elmhurst is wonderful!!

12.3: (s.) Other – Trains, Broken/Burst Pipes - Basement flooding -H2O dept. did not know how to shut off valve on the street - Plumber was in shock at "water boys" lack of knowledge.

12.2: - (s.) Other - City tries to do too much at one time, which increases our taxes. Space out the improvements. Also, quit all the excess focus on the parks -budget way too high. We have lived here for 39 years - raised our 3 sons here Jackson, Bryan, York. All are college graduates. We wanted to stay here but the taxes are so prohibitive, even with our home paid off. It is forcing retired persons out. You need a diverse population, age wise, to have a true community. City spends way too much on the Parks and doing the library and high school at the same time was insane. Soon you'll have only "30" something yuppies with 1.2 children as your only homeowners. Focus more on the people than pretty parks and raising taxes.

Side street speed controls (speed bumps?)

Our downtown area (York rd.) needs help! So many other communities such as LaGrange, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, have a charming downtown area with several great restaurants and shops to choose from whereas Elmhurst is kind of BLAH! Without the movie theatre, I doubt we would even go there as often as we do. We need more restaurants and stores - not banks and hair/nail salons. Furthermore, the North of Elmhurst should be developed. Let's try to draw in more businesses that are not mom and pop shops. Now that we have Mariano's, maybe we can spend some \$ on the North side of town! A big sports complex at the site of the old Waverly Inn would be fabulous. Right now, we have to travel to McCook for volleyball and Lacrosse. I think this would make a lot of money for Elmhurst!

10.8: - Building Code Enforcement - Not enough - Not enough permeable land around new construction.

City budget (employee pension) Convert to private retirement options

Budget - Something I don't follow closely, so I'm not sure of my level of exposure.

Comments to questions: 1.8: 2008-09 Horrendous recessions and no road repair done. Went to police station for help- very rude and unfriendly (non-emergency). 5.7: Again Elmhurst spent no money on city due to 2008-2009 recession. 5.10: I would know better when I could shop to make it convenient, like the large malls where all stores have the same hours and days open 5.11: Other stores: Antique shops, artisan crafts, relaxation, healing spa, eyewear store like, "see eyewear", Trader Joe's, card store like Paper Source. 9.15: (h.) (weather emergencies) Where is this? Cannot locate this one from my smart phone 10.8: (50/50 sidewalk program) What is it 12.1: (3) Not too far from Chicago 12.2: (2) Street maintenance General comments: Parking downtown as we all know is difficult and getting worse. The post office can be a nightmare to park and the counter always understaffed and unfriendly. I use Oak Brook office. My street was never shoveled down to the actual street, how about some salt. Pothole repairs done in a sloppy and short-lived manner without care. New garbage cans are huge and do not consider the elderly. York St. traffic is only getting worse. Police are unfriendly and should use glow sticks or glow gloves if giving traffic direction at night. Bicyclists and runners in the street should be required to have night visible reflections.

Question comments: 4.12: Two commuters in household; 1=18 miles, 2= less than 5 miles. 4.14: 1= Car to train, 2= personal vehicle. Other comments: Many streets are crumbling. Need lots of repair work. Congestion on roads is a problem, especially near St. Charles, Rt. 83, and West Ave. The West Ave/St. Charles is a major cause of backups. I understand that this was a bad winter, but I think snow/ice removal could be better. Overall, we love living here!

Our basement has flooded twice since we moved here in June 2010 due to the storm sewers/city sewers being overwhelmed. We invested in a check valve because our insurance company was threatening to cancel us Until Elmhurst seriously invests in fixing this problem, I have serious reservations about recommending people to move here no matter how good the schools, parks, etc. are at this point.

We love Elmhurst but living on Spring rd. and the St. Pats Parade there are a lot of papers and scraps still lying around. It is still messy. The city cleaned up but some people don't seem to take care of their trash. Maybe we should have a clean-up day in the town and everyone pitch in to create a lovely looking town. We're not blaming anyone just trying to create awareness. Thank you.

I rated Elmhurst as a place to retire as poor because property taxes are too high to remain in the area and retire.

I hate to see waste in a city. Even the brick sidewalks look nice. Upkeep is very expensive and they are a trip hazard for people with disabilities. When the school district has no money, why does everyone at the district office have to have a sign for parking places. The parking lot looks

like a forest for signs. These may be small things to you but when I see them, I see government waste.

Property taxes too high-driving people out of Elmhurst

1.8: Wasn't here 5.7: Wasn't here 8.8: Didn't know about them

Additional question comments: 2.11/2.12: The evidence collecting SUVs. Two of them? Overkill-waste of tax monies. 2.20-2.24: But this has nothing to do with police presence, it has to do with the community. 3.8: Plow drivers need to slow down. Realize they are trying to keep up- but they need to slow down/stop or at least break at stop signs/intersections. 4.6: Getting better. 4.10: Police department get way too much funding. 5.12: (e) Just Mariano's, nothing else. 6.1: Contractor did when we installed all new windows. He said Elmhurst is "very slow" in releasing permits. I'll take his word for it. 7.16: With guests from out of town and for personal interest. Elmhurst art museum, govt. hist- sci and industry MCA- Field museum. 7.22: (b) We should, we just have not. 9.1: Alderman/the Healy's email updates. 9.9: I can get a phone number for additional info if not on web site. 9.11: Honestly, I used to watch them and upgraded cable and couldn't find them. Will check channel 99 again- Thanks. 9.15: But I will look into this. 10.6: Info is a bit hard to find- but at least it is there. No headings, tabs are "budget" at the onset, budget link is buried. A layman's summary would also be helpful. 10.8: (50/50 sidewalk program) Don't know what this is. 10.8: (Animal Control) Skunk population was out of control about a year ago- No help what so ever from calls to city. 10.8: (Storm water Management) We are fine; others have concerns so no opinion. 12.2: (b) (3) A bit too much buildings, constant construction wrecking roads. 12.2: (s) (2) Elmhurst has a small town feel, police force present attitude is way, too urban, hostile overbearing. Comments: We know we are in the minority, but we think that the constant tearing down of bungalows and smaller to mid- sized homes is one of Elmhurst's flaws. When we chose Elmhurst 20 years ago, the financial demographic was varied. We feel that a varied financial demographic is healthy for a community. The nurse can afford to live in the same town as the doctor. The fireman can afford to live in the town he protects. The teacher can afford to live in the town where her school is located. Our good friend's daughter and her husband were recently looking to relocate. Their budget for housing was 450,000 to 550,000. We encouraged her to look at Elmhurst, gave her a "pitch" about the outstanding schools, the parks, the excellent location, and the trees. She chose a different community. When we asked her if she looked at Elmhurst, she said she loved Elmhurst so much but it is way too expensive for them. Her husband has a great job, she teaches. They have two young sons. We realize that our new homes are extraordinary and handsome and of very high quality but we see it as a development that will eventually make Elmhurst less of a small town with wonderful services and friendly neighbors and great schools and more of just a wealthy high-end suburb, and that makes us sad. We are not sure how we could even address this as a community. Perhaps we could offer real estate tax credits for rehabbing nice brick bungalows. We feel that the realtors, builders, and mortgage brokers would drown out any efforts made to stabilize the smaller housing stock but we would love

some effort thought or even acknowledgement of the situation; and yes, we are aware that property services are what pay for the services of the schools and the parks but every time a brick bungalow gets bulldozed another young family loses the opportunity to help Elmhurst thrive.

10.8: - Tree Replacement - We need Elm Trees. You can buy Dutch Elm resistant trees; pretty soon Elmhurst will just be called Hurst. 10.8: - Private Property Stormwater I had to get it.

1. Snow removal is horrible! 2. Shopper parking should be free for Elmhurst residents, with an Elmhurst City sticker displayed in car window. Especially if dining, shopping, etc... Thank you!!!

12.2: TIFs

4.12 - 4.15: "No" It seems we spend a lot & do a good job re-surfacing streets but allow very shady repairs by the city & contractors. If you want an example, drive York St. from Schiller to Butterfield and Vallette from Poplar to Spring. No one should be allowed to open a road surface without repairing to the same quality as before the roadwork. In other words, you should be able to drive over the repair & not feel it! Why spend huge dollars to fix city streets & then allow them to be ruined?

12.2: (s.) Other - Lack of restaurants 12.3: (s.) Other - Keeping retail & restaurants in City Centre

In general, streets are poor. Clean up is poor. Amazed after new projects such as resurfacing Rt. 83, how much gravel, weeds, etc., remain. Streets/curbs need replacement - Not patching. In summer, weeds are everywhere - sidewalks, streets, etc. - looks poor.

The relationship between the city and District 205 is pervaded by complicity. Our home is across the street from Jackson school. On many occasions, we have had questions and concerns as to how the school interfaces with their immediate neighbors. Our alderman, Mark Mulliner has been approached on several occasions to help with resolutions to issues concerning the school. These concerns for the most part have been ignored. Historically, just the fact the city allowed overbuilding on school property is a travesty. This overbuilding has contributed to our flooding problem. Currently traffic congestion is the most pressing issue. Among other requests we asked if Swain could be opened to thru traffic to alleviate the traffic congestion. There was no problem with Swain being closed when the school was a small neighborhood school. However, now with the school's increased population opening Swain would greatly alleviate traffic congestion. This request was denied with the reason given that the principal at the time didn't want the street open. This was the same principal who was dismissed for grade manipulation. Who is in charge of traffic flow, the city or the school? Another issue is, plastic banners attached to the school and fences. They are in place for months. Requests for removal were denied by the current principal Ryan Anderson. Is there a code concerning how long signage may stay in place? These plastic signs are eyesores and after a few readings the

students do not even pay attention to them. Another very important subject is the cost of living in Elmhurst. People on fixed incomes are being driven out of the community. If they finally choose to move they are charged a tax. Consideration should be given to decrease the financial obligations of these members of the community.

I moved to Elmhurst in 1999, when I was 52 and still working. At the time, I really appreciated the ease at which I could commute to the city or to O'Hare. Now that I am retired, I am enjoying the life style that Elmhurst offers active seniors. Courts Plus is a great asset as are the Elmhurst schools, which my grandchildren attend. Providing a great quality of life and remaining affordable are the challenges that lie ahead. A revitalized downtown will be critical for a prosperous future that will keep cost of living reasonable with a continued great quality of life.

3.12: Should have sidewalks 4.7: Horrible 5.14: No bookstore 10.4: Have no idea 12.2: Restaurants Sec.2 Seems police not visible in area of west Eldridge - lots of speeders, ambulances using frontage road as short cut to Elmhurst Hospital. Sec. 3 Paying bill in person, they are rude. West of Eldridge is missing sidewalks, which compromises safety when walking in the neighborhood. Sec.4 Biking is difficult i.e. street conditions. Bike parking is horrible particularly at train station. Misc. Would like some ethnic foods. Don't need any more Italian and no more wine bars. Need variety. LOVE the library!! Excellent work with special events. Overall, we love Elmhurst but would like to make sure it stays nice. Some properties are really poorly kept.

There are several patches of sidewalks that need replacing. In my neighborhood (Armitage near Walnut), one house has no sidewalk but the rest of the street has them. When people are walking down the sidewalk suddenly there is a yard full of mud, water, snow, etc. and we have to go into a busy street to walk around their mess. Also, some houses like that one are run down and a real eye sore. With the money we pay to live in Elmhurst, I feel more people should be held to the high standard that Elmhurst represents and keep their homes in good condition. They bring down our home values.

5.11: Stores that are more of interest to the younger generation. Less expensive for families.
10.9: No allowances made for seniors.

3.5: Improve storm water and sanitary sewers to accommodate rainfall so I don't have to worry about my basement flooding every time it rains. Owners should not need overhead sewers and backyard drains for they are not the root causes of flooding issues. They just attend to symptoms of a poorly maintained infrastructure. The priority instead of constructing parking lots. Secondary issues would be electrical, outages. My property is located in the College view area.

11.2: - How about adding Transgender? Need Trader Joe's

10.8: Not Enough - Animal control - Skunk

12.3: - Chose (o.) Stormwater management/flooding for all three ranks

9.14: (j.) Article in Suburban Life - The policies and programs of the Federal and State governments have driven down the quality of life locally. I think it is the local government's job to try to lessen or mitigate these poor decisions and try to at least maintain a decent standard of living despite Springfield and Washington.

These answers are from an 89-year-old female. I did shop Elmhurst a lot, went to museums, downtown events, etc. years ago but these questions are mostly about in the last 12 months. It's a case of "I would if I could" with some of the questions.

The City does a poor job in selecting which streets to repair/repave. Get rid of flood control & repave the streets.

Elmhurst bringing in more businesses like Mariano's is great for the community. Need more businesses to share the tax burden.

5.11: (g.) Lifetime Fitness or LA Fitness 12.3: (s.) Resurfacing the streets in 3rd ward. The streets in 3rd ward and drains need attention, as you know, they are in poor condition. We also need Business development on York Road to replace the Waverton Hotel and other closed businesses. Over all, Elmhurst is a great place to live and we enjoy living here.

1.8: Did not live here five years ago so cannot give an accurate answer here. As a stay-at-home mom, I don't think I have seen an Elmhurst Police Officer drive by my home in the six months I have lived here. I live on a busy thoroughfare - Bryan St. As my son and other young neighbor children are playing outside, many cars go speeding by every day. I would like to see more police presence to impede drivers from speeding by.

12.2: (m.) Citizen underlined "flooding"; (j.) citizen added "restaurants and dining"; (f.) citizen added downtown-"City Centre"; (s.) citizen stated "school traffic pattern and texting in school zones!"

5.13: Primarily due to Mariano's 5.14: I miss Plass and Soukups 9.14: The mayor has placed city-wide phone calls in past. These are helpful * I would love to shop more in downtown Elmhurst but there is not much retail other than Kohl's & K-Mart. Can we get something to replace Honey Girl, Ruby's, and Elm Dept. Store? No more banks or restaurants. *I'm worried about building in town-teardowns, 6 story parking garages, old Elmhurst Hospital property. I hope the city maintains its history and uniqueness and doesn't become overcrowded and cookie cutter like. * Our property now floods thanks to building on neighbor's properties. I wish city had better codes & enforced them to prevent this.

12.2: - Other - Inequality in appearance and maintenance etc., between North and South Elmhurst. Comments: In general, my husband and I enjoy living in the community. However, overall we are disappointed with our neighborhood mostly the maintenance of our neighbor's properties. For example, sump pump discharger hoses are coming into the street and when I called I was told "during the summer we are stricter". I have friends who live on the Southside and their properties are taken care of. I have neighbors with dumpsters, RV homes, trash on their lawn etc. We have cars that speed constantly, loud bass at nighttime. We are just shocked at the differences between sides.

1.8: - Moved here in 2013 3.10: - Stump grinding 4.10: - The digital display? On York? 4.12: - I am now 7.1 - Elmhurst Public Library - Is outstanding! A big reason we moved here. 10.8: - Animal Control - Not enough - Skunks

Get rid of "STICKERS" for trash pick-up -Upgrade downtown-increase parking -Promote "SHOPPING IN ELMHURST" heavily -Parkway trees need better care -Make contractors keep roads and streets clean-too much mud-THANKS.

Bring back Elm fest

Police are too aggressive with parking tickets. No one likes vehicle stickers. Paying for extra garbage or lawn refuse is not a good idea.

2.2: (d.) other - People in Washington Park disturbing neighbor

Downtown Elmhurst needs better shopping options - no more coffee or frozen yogurt or banks! -Better restaurants/more options needed -Clothing stores are too expensive -Lower City sticker prices -Streets need repairing -Housing market is too expensive compared to surrounding towns.

1.5: - Taxes too high 9.15: - You need to advertise/promote this much more! What an easy way to keep up-to-date! 10.1: Taxes too high 10.8: - Parking enforcement - Same policeman ticketing the same area downtown - give Elmhurst customers a break on parking tickets! Jeeez! 10.8: - Private Property sanitary sewer assistance (Overhead sewer program) - Southside Elmhurst residents must have known when they purchased their homes there was a higher likelihood of flooding in that area. Our realtor would not show us houses in SW Elmhurst. That is why we live in different part of Elmhurst. These homeowners need to take partial responsibility for their situation (that live in SW Elmhurst) 12.2: #3- (j.) - How about 2nd hand clothes store. books? - I would like to see more stores than just restaurants and clothes. Comments: My notes are listed on previous pages. All in all, I am impressed with everything Elmhurst has to offer.

2.7: (a.) -Everyone at our block party, especially the kids, loved fireman Jeff and his crew. We so

appreciate their time and enthusiasm =) 4.8: A little fast down Hillside, could use a stop at Hillside and McKinley 5.7: (a.)-"My daughter loves Nu Crepes" 5.11: (a.)-"Qdoba" 10.8:- "We(heart) Elmhurst" 12.2: (s.)-"Power outages" 12.3: (g)-"B/c it's so good now"

Poor place to retire -Taxes are too high for retired people with the extra tax on gasoline. I haven't bought gas in Elmhurst for years. It's the same at restaurants, if it wasn't for coupons, I wouldn't eat any meals at local restaurants. Street Maintenance - The concrete streets on the North are terrible, huge cracks and chunks missing. The asphalt patches just disappear over time, and looks and drives terrible. Refuse/Recycling - For two retired people it takes 3 weeks to fill/ or almost fill the huge containers, yet we pay the same as everyone else getting their trash picked up every week. Why? You need to only charge for what people use!

7.19: Friday evening

Do all new houses have to have the gutters connect to the storm sewer - digging up street and possibly overwhelming the storm sewer system? Draining water on the grass would help grass. Building permit approves changes so replacement of existing structures can be minimized. Tear down and rebuilding, I guess should have more review - replacement of an existing driveway should not take a month.

My son is writing this for me but it reflects my opinions. I am 99 and have lived in the same house since 1952. The current refuse collection is not fair to seniors like me. I do not fill a trash can each week. I am charged for a service I don't fully use. Why not stickers when I do set my can out? One size doesn't fit all. Elmhurst has been a good place to live. It has changed. More rental properties & less up-keep of property. Concerned about taxes & future quality of life.

1.5:-"Costly" 9.7-9.9: -"No" 12.1:-Items b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j checked 12.2: (s.)-Civic Center-Skateboarders signs ignored. No control, someone will get hurt. Young people can't afford housing and elderly can't afford to stay.

5.11: - A. Gluten Free Options - G. Other - More mainstream clothing like the Gap, same as Hinsdale, Play cafe (mom's and kids), would love a cafe like Julius Meinl, Chicago. 12.2: -1. (p.) Traffic noise - Expressway 12.3: - 1. - Other - Traffic noise

12.3:-2. - Other - Sewer management (Back up). I suggest that, in the future, you select (randomly) a focus group to refine the survey. Some of the questions are vague or too general.

Street maintenance - contractors tear up the streets - make initial repairs, which sink and create problems. Why can't they be made to maintain these repairs? Seems to be a waste of taxpayers' money to pave a street only to be torn up by a contractor and left to deteriorate. Intersection of Valette and Poplar poorly designed - tough to navigate.

2.2: -(d.) Other - Non-emergency - Lost pets, suspicious person, fireworks after midnight 3.13: - Mosquito Control - Save \$ - Stop this now. OMG!!! Stop!!! - Cannot stand this - I close my windows!! Spraying -it's killing all insects and birds' nests too and poisoning your town, morons!! Enough pollution - stop Chemtrails!!!! Gets into water supply for God's sake - doesn't disappear!! 4.12: - People drive slower than this often. 10.8: - Mosquito control - Stop gassing poor animals. I don't want my \$ going to this; it's inhumane. What's wrong with relocation? I hate that our town does this!! Comments: Stop fluoride in our drinking water - OMG. Stop spraying pesticides that contaminate our environment and do way too much harm to nature and plants, soil, animals, groundwater and people (no lightening bugs or butterflies). Causes illnesses and is unavoidable to breath!! If it doesn't stop - I hope you get sued!

I rated poor for snow/ice removal because there are always huge mounds of snow on the sides of the street which trash is thrown onto often. I rated very poor for mosquito control.

Skunk problem is out of control - Would like to see Elmhurst Animal Control step in and alleviate the problem. Need more mosquito abatement.

3.10:-Over-pruned 3.14:-Containers too big for seniors 3.16:-Too big 5.9 (a.)-At Jewel and Walgreens 10.4:-Property values declining. Taxes increasing! Elmhurst has a lot of hamburger restaurants-but no Steak n' Shake or Culvers. I'd like to see one of these replace the Burger King on N. York. It doesn't get much business. Steak n' Shake and Culvers are better quality fast food burgers.

-Condition of side streets-poor Too many patches, holes, etc. Takes much too long for City to fix/repair, patch jobs done are horrible. -SMART Trailer-Waste of money

12.1: (o.)-Elmhurst College

Great town. Biggest gripes are the rapid escalation of parking ticket fees and the crumbling sidewalks

Question specific answers: 5.11: Doesn't have to be downtown. Love that Whole Foods is moving to Dominick's old location. 7.6: None General Comments: Elmhurst has fantastic qualities. Safe, great schools, new library, hospital, and high school. It is centrally located. I hope the schools continue to be rated high quality in years to come. Some roads are in dire need of repair, i.e. Park St. between Havens and York Rd. and Arlington /Haven and First between Havens and York Rd. (actually two blocks east of Havens as well). Great city overall.

11.5: College view

Answers to questions: 2.1: I had to call 911 for my father in the past, he had Alzheimer's. The quality of the care we received was unsurpassed. The fire and police is top notch. 3.5 3-2:

Middle General comments: I think we live in a great community, suburban but with a city feel. I live on Emily Manor Home and I worry about the house a few blocks away. Many empty homes, renters that make the blocks look ghetto like. It concerns me that I won't be able to retire in Elmhurst. I don't know that it can be connected but it is a concern. More regulations should be in place to make the landlords more accountable for the property. I do feel we have a great sense of privacy here and being part of a wonderful town. I do think we need a Trader Joe's in Elmhurst. I think we're the right demographic for them. The police and fire departments are just the best I've had dealings with them both and I can't praise them enough. We are so lucky to have them watching over us.

12.1: (j.) Quality of teachers

5.14: Groceries-Trader Joe's 9.1 Elmhurst Patch 12.2: (s.) Other-No Trader Joe's There needs to be a Trader Joe's. There needs to be a venue for live music There needs to be benches in the commercial zones besides City Centre and Parks There needs to be police officers in the commercial areas walking around instead of in their cars

12.2: - (s.) Other - Lack of Park District ??

As I am currently using the school system, I am ok paying the taxes I have now. When my children are gone (10 years off), I will likely have to leave. My tax is currently \$20,000 per year.

What exactly does the Chamber of Commerce do? Besides interview each other, lunch, and golf. How much are they paid? How are they appointed? Offices where?

10.8: - Private property stormwater and Private property sanitary sewer - These programs don't matter when pipes are full. Nowhere for water to go. Comments: I was upset that the city was addressing the flooding problems on the south side and had meetings for them. Nothing seems to be happening to fix this problem on the north side of the city. I was recently told by a local realtor, that families do not want to buy in my neighborhood because of ratings for K-8 schools. The Elmhurst school district needs to find a way to get the schools up to par with other Elmhurst schools. Why do Bensenville kids go to our schools? Need to redistrict and find better ways to deal with non-English speaking students.

Elmhurst is a great city to live in. However, I believe it will become increasingly difficult to stay here in retirement after our house is sold. Not enough retirement places (condos, apts., etc.) that are affordable for retirees on limited income.

1. I do not allow police officers to hang out at 7-11 during the morning when children are walking to school. 2. More police presence in City Centre on weekend nights (Sat-Sun) 3. More focus on gang activity downtown, less worry about village stickers- prioritize. Police job description.

Answers to questions: 10.8: Animal control: Skunks 12.2: (1) Power outages make (unable to read) to improve somewhat

12.2: Other: We live in Pick sub-division-Why can't we be "real" Elmhurst residents-1. We go to Villa Park schools 2. We pay out-of-district fees for Park District. Why do Bensenville, Oakbrook & Addison get the benefits of Elmhurst?? 12.2: (i.) Why do we need extra refuse stickers? That's like an extra tax! 1. Overall, our family loves living here, but feel like we are stuck being only part of Elmhurst; part of Villa Park. 2. We hate when it rains extremely hard because we are always afraid of storm management. Are the sewer systems able to handle the amount of water? Will they actually open the quarry for extra water management? Why does it seem that the Salt Creek empties into our neighborhood-Why won't the city show us how the water actually empties from our neighborhood? Where should it go? Years ago, we didn't get this type of overflow regardless of how much it rained. I still feel once certain pipes were "fixed" that's when we started getting water we shouldn't have gotten!!

Zoning laws need to be reviewed. Too many large "monster" houses being built, adversely changing character of the city, and contributing to flooding problems.

12.2: I wish we were able to attract stores like Mendards, Gander Mountain, and Farm & Fleet. Also, more fire dept. staffing. Minimum of 3 on each truck, and Elmhurst FD fire/medics on ambulances, not contract staff.

12.2: - (s.) Other - Streets We feel you have already made your minds up on city buildings, etc. before the public is asked for their opinions. So, it really doesn't matter what we think.

Garbage toter program not good for older people with small amounts of garbage and recycle each week. Even though totes on wheels in snow and ice difficult when you can't walk. - Attended Citizens Police Academy Spring 2013. Very informative. Never did receive class picture of graduation or class picture as promised.

Fay Avenue has no lights whatsoever going west. -This makes for a very unsafe environment. Please install more streetlights and a sidewalk ASAP. Dangerous hazards!! -This west part of the street makes it an easy target for crime. Also during the evening you have people dumping in the forest preserve due to lack of lighting. Again very unsafe and we have no idea what is being disposed of.

Reduce government overhead. Sub contract more services out through open bid process. Monitor contractor performance.

Really more street sweeping. Often times it's the construction from all the new homes being

built that add so much dirt and debris to the street.

12.2: (s.) Water bill rate

12.2: (s.) Lack of diversity of population 12.3: (s.) Keeping it from turning into Evanston with tall buildings and downtown congestion. Why didn't you ask about park programs specifically? I think they are great and a B+ - love the Courts and other park district programs. Particularly the adult dance!

You might want to take into consideration when reading my responses that I'm more than 80 years old, a widow, and not so much of a social butterfly. My own neighborhood is great and many have been here as long or longer than I have. My greatest disappointment is the field at the end of the quarry street that has been shoveled. Not only is it ugly, we are open to rt. 83.

Question comments: 10.8: Animal control: Skunks General comments: Very poor in skunk control near College view. City is not helpful. Drop a trap and then what? We have had to pay for a trapper several years.

Question comments: 12.3: Other (3) Redevelopment north of Lake St. General comments: Elmhurst city government is professional and progressive. The one area I question is the level of cooperation among city, district 205, and park district- seems as if the 3 entities operate in mostly separate spheres rather than institutionalizing joint planning.

5.11: - (g.) Other - More "kid friendly" restaurants. Would love to have a bookstore. I hate having to go to Oak Brook Mall's Barnes and Nobles. 7.1 - Fantastic Library - I just wish that there were more parking. Many times lot is full (which is a good thing).

Question comments: 10.8: Private property storm water assistance (rear yard drain program- Didn't know the city offered this. 12.2: (j.) (3) Retail shopping opportunities- Too many vacant businesses. General comments: At times, I cannot understand why it takes 5-6 men to plant a tree. 1. Planting, 4-5 looking on. Seems like the city has a lot of worker duplicity efforts.

12.2: - (s.) Other - Not enough racial and economic diversity particularly to expose children to the real world. Comments: Only below average is my knowledge of city budget - my fault and stormwater management, which should be evident to everyone. Seems like it has been given a lot of attention and money in studies. As an ordinary citizen, living here over 40 years - the situation is getting much worse and it is due to over-building with much less green space to absorb the rain. Getting more tax money from large houses is the motivation. In my opinion, correct public servant leaders should do what is right, even if tax revenues are decreased. Thank you.

Storm water. Our basement floods have been emotionally, physically, and emotionally draining.

What will new homes in hospital area do to make these issues worse?

Section 3: Street Sweeping, 2x yr? Maybe parkway tree is a maple that sheds almost all year. It is ugly too, not very good at all! Mosquito control, never??? When I was younger (ha-ha, 30 years ago) they would spray 3 x per week, now maybe 2 x a summer. I pay attention to this because I get huge welts from mosquito bites. To be fair, it's a great place to live and raise kids. Taxes have doubled, minus 300, since I moved to this house 11 years ago. Soon, I will have to move.

12.2: - (s.) Other - New construction

Question comments: 12.2: (Other) (1) Train blockage

I was very disappointed in snow removal this year. I felt like there were weeks at a time with frozen snow on the side streets.

Elmhurst is allowing too large of houses to be built on the small lots. It's getting more brick than green. This also contributes to the flooding problem.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Drugs, poor care of streets, high taxes

My house flooded last April with 1 foot of water in my basement. It could have been avoided, if the village had pre-removed water from Salt creek and pumped it into the quarry. We were warned for 4 days of the magnitude of the storm. All the new construction has depleted the areas for water to recede but the village only cares about getting their tax money. SHAME ON YOU ELMHURST!!!! I have a neighbor to the north of me on Swain whose sump pump drains directly on to my property. I was told by the village he would be contacted and required to divert it toward the street. WHEN? IT'S BEEN MONTHS!

12.2: (s.) Refusal to change things

The street we live on is usually neglected when it comes to snow plowing. The people who pick up the yard waste tend to leave some yard waste (a lot of branches, etc.) behind. The streets are full of potholes (residential).

Our part of the city is one of the oldest parts; therefore, street and sewer in the future will require more attention as far as maintenance is concerned. Hope the city budget will cover our area. Thank you

Cost of living in Elmhurst is skyrocketing with high property taxes, making it extremely difficult for the middle class to live in Elmhurst.

12.3: Not much room for population growth, so it is really the changing demographics. Housing

for Seniors!!!

Condition of local sidewalks is terrible and dangerous...broken, uneven sections, missing concrete, etc. Something needs to be done regarding rules and policies governing rental properties, in particular single-family home rentals. Rental homes are becoming fairly obvious by appearance and are becoming eyesores in the community. This should be considered a high priority in terms of preserving our neighborhoods and quality of life.

Parking is poor everywhere especially Jewel Butterfield/York, downtown city centre. Taxes extremely high for widow, mother of 3 teenagers - need discounts Hard to install overhead sewer sump pumps after living in Elmhurst 19 years - horrible expense when Elmhurst is at fault - should be reimbursed for all not half for overhead sewer and all that had I had to do to prevent future flooding. Streets never totally clear of snow/ice all winter. Street sweeping in past was monthly instead of 3 times a year. Need tax cut to account for depreciation in homes in South Elmhurst - decline value of property since known to flood.

2.20: Because house next door. We would like the city to take care of the house next door-757 S York. We have little kids and do not feel safe. People who live there are taking DRUGS. They are low and it's a hotel for everybody who needs to sleep somewhere. Please help!!!!

I have an issue with my rear sewer. I have a problem with only having an IRISH PARADE in front of my house. My neighbors have the worst yard in the NEIGHBORHOOD. You do nothing for the residents except cheat and take money. Flooding twice ruined my home and you offered only loan assistance from the government (Which you knew about and did nothing to prevent). The neighborhood seems very prejudicial and discriminatory to anyone culturally different.

My opinion of planning and zoning - We have not solved anything about flooding since 1987- but planning and zoning keeps developing on the south end- The Elm Crest development is insane-they receive more flooding. The council used to listen to public- now I feel they don't- we are the taxpayers. Too many institutions are buried- too much money spent on the historical museum-parking garage-we have a great police and fire department- flooding is our biggest problem. Planning and zoning has developed every piece of open land in the south end. This stores millions of gallons of water- I blame them for adding to the problem- a huge investment next to the creek. What were they thinking or don't care? I have lived here since 1960. My husband was a 7th ward alderman at the time- great place to raise children- they listened to the public- now every promise about no development in the south end has been broken-since 1978- it's all concrete. This city must not believe in open land- retail to flooding often I saw the development in Elm Creek next to Salt Creek; I am ready to none where will all that run off go? The creek can't handle what it gets now- Planning and Zoning should be held responsible- new homes, water going directly into the storm water pipes? What are you thinking- 17 houses built on what was once a marsh behind Everett street- when it rains they don't come out to the road- I give up! I think this city has done some great things- but planning

and zoning has made everything worse down here- forget the 6 story-parking garage and spend the money on flooding.

4.12: Volunteer Street Maintenance: Between difficult winter and new construction cuts, many streets are in poor shape. Budget Info: compare cost year & year on tax bills. Don't know how bonds will effect taxes. Still don't understand TIF funding and how much we are contributing to businesses.

I'd like to see major improvements; roads, sidewalks, trees - at the corners of York & Butterfield. City Centre and Spring Road are all pretty. York & Butterfield is a dump. With the new hospital campus, this area should be improved.

12.2: (s.) Other - Eliminate skunks

Spend less money on capital improvements whatever that means and more money on improving roads and storm sewer service. The strip mall at York/Valette needs to be revamped. The buildings are ugly!

Better maintenance of Prairie path overall and specifically between York Rd West and CN tracks. This area contains numerous dead trees and branches. Multi-night parking in city garages very difficult without permit. This makes it difficult to stay in Chicago for several days and requires private transportation to the city.

Question comments: 12.2: (Other) Building a six-story parking garage downtown. 12.3: (Other) Vision for the city- another parking garage downtown and 6 stories high. General comments: Normally I would give Elmhurst 5's. However, I am very disappointed about the vote to build a 6 story-parking garage in downtown Elmhurst. This would never happen in Hinsdale or Naperville. We are not Oak Park. Wrong vision for the future of this residential community.

5.11: Retail chains like GAP, LOFT, not more boutique stores-also chain restaurants like NOODLES & CO or CORNER BAKERY 9.15: Didn't know about this

10.8: - Animal Control - Not Enough - Can't sit outside due to nightly skunk spray. 12.2: - (s.) - Other - Need somewhere safe/controlled for pre-teen (14-17) year olds to go/ with something to do.

I live near Butterfield Park - traffic enforcement (speed, disregard for stop sign) needs improvement. I seldom see a patrol car around the area. Closing time of the park needs to be enforced in late hours when games are not scheduled. Also, with so many new homes being built, will they continue to have drain water going to the sewer systems?

We need a children's REC center for basketball & hockey games for kids. Mt Prospect has 2 or 3 fabulous Rec centers with great programs. So do all the North Shore suburbs with traveling

basketball & baseball leagues. Highland Park & Glencoe, for instance, have great programs. Mt Prospect also has great rec centers & programs for kids. Elmhurst Courts is too adult oriented to be honest.

Many years ago (before storm sewers) we solved the problem of an overloaded treatment plant by disconnecting downstairs from the sewers. Homes had much smaller roofs and driveways, sloped away from house and most water was absorbed by the lawn or garden. Alongside the driveway would put most of the water in the streets or downspouts. Now, the roofs are three times as large... wide driveways put all the water in the street and downspouts and yard drains are required to be connected to the storm sewer. How stupid can you be! Apparently, some people would rather flood their basements and streets rather than have a puddle in their yards.

1.8: Moved back four years ago (Huntley 2006-2009) 9.15: was not aware 11.3: 37 years 1971-2006-4 years 2010-2014 12.3: other: limiting of home rentals to people that do not maintain their property. They run down the neighborhood. The city needs to inspect homes that are being placed on the market for city code violations. Also, there should be a limit to the "section 8" rentals, especially on the north side.

Elmhurst is a wonderful and safe place to live. Local businesses offer improved variety and quality of services. Elmhurst College is an asset offering the annual jazz festival. Elmhurst Public Library is great with a comfortable setting for reading, studying, and educational programs. The park districts Swimming pools and parks offer summer fun. The city employees especially the police are responsive and caring. The museums enrich our lives and the train provides access to Chicago's museums as well.

Please see attached comments and photos. Parking enforcement strongly needed illegal overnight/obstruction on street parking everywhere around my neighborhood, especially on snow day. Because of that, snowplow truck driver have to drive around the obstruction. Next morning, residents have a hard time to get out of their driveway to go to work...those obstruction vehicles do not belong to the neighborhood. Put more signs like "No Overnight Parking 3-6 am.;; "No Parking on snow day..."; "2 hours school day parking"; "Slow down school zone ahead", etc., etc., etc. See attached, not just at City Center. Also attached pictures show obstruction vehicles parked (overnight) for days, left/built a big ice bed after they left.

I think when a person reaches the age of 65 and has been living in Elmhurst more than 25 years, hasn't any children in school and did pay their share of taxes over the years for education, should not be taxed for schools.

My biggest concerns are: What is Elmhurst going to do to keep substance abuse use and sales low or non-existent? What programs are in place to keep our young generation away from the accessibility of the drugs? I am also concerned about the school borders opened to non-

Elmhurst residents on the North side of town. As well as the loitering of what looks like "homeless people" walking around town. Especially around the time, our kids are leaving school. Lastly, we need to draw some solid businesses in town. What's the plan for the spaces at the Standard & Plass furniture?

My taxes are high and my kids qualify due to our address to Conrad Fisher School. Do not feel that is fair. More attention must be placed on those who pay higher taxes. Higher taxes should equal access to better schools!

Now that the airport is expanding; now your concerned about North Elmhurst. We need more hardware stores.

1.8: (b.) Too much parking 2.12: Fair to poor 2.19: Don't buy them hats-they do not wear them 5.9 (a.) For food stores 7.22: (g.)-(lectures circled) 10.5: No website

Improve sidewalks + streets in neighborhood

12.3: (s.)-Drugs -Flooding continues to be an issue. Resolution is needed especially by Spring Road between St. Charles Road and Butterfield

Streets need to be redone

Question comments: 9.14: Mosquito spray

The water retention in the front of our houses needs to either be dug deeper or wider or both because when it rains it fills up fast & water goes over and now that they are building 9 new big houses on the corner with all the extra water. We are all worried that we are going to flood...and nobody is doing anything about this.

I am 70 years old. I don't need any extra expenses since we live on a fixed income. Like new sidewalks

Taxes and water charges are too high. Need to get government spending under control so that taxes and other government fees can be reduced. That being said, I find Elmhurst a nice community to live in and I just bought a town home here after renting for two years.

Parking on Alexander - let them park on the feeding side streets such as Berkely/Fairview/Grace, etc., etc., etc.

Not happy about the old hospital being turned into a housing development. The downtown (York St.) area needs more diversity of business to thrive.

Snow/ice removal - It seems that my street is last to be cleaned...always. Sidewalks - Last Fall

we called to say how uneven our sidewalk was in front of our house and the response from the city was that it would be looked at. The next day, our sidewalk was patched with blacktop. It looks awful.

Too late for my opinion but the look of Elmhurst has changed dramatically due to the size of new homes in existing neighborhoods. We have become like Chicago with homes on top of the other no land between them. Also, too many coach house designs. Homes, driveway, pools take up too much of the land not enough and open- increase flooding

5.11: (g.) I would shop locally more-not very interesting. Look @ downtown LaGrange!! Lots of interesting stores. 12.2: (s.) Lack of diversity

5.11: - There is already a music store in Elmhurst!! Luscombe Music on Vallette St. gives excellent service. And why? Bigger and better "Mac" mansions~they are destroying the "neighborhoods" of Elmhurst, creating more infrastructure problems.

9.1: What are these? 12.2: DNA Coordinate resurfacing with sewer/infrastructure work. Regularly a street is re-surfaced and then without a water main or sewer line break-then a new surface is ripped up, dug up, and finally patched.

My only problem with Elmhurst is the leaf pickup. It takes too long to put them all in those stupid brown bags. We should be able to pile them in the street and have a big truck come by and vacuum them all up. A lot of other cities do this

12.2: (s.) Nothing bothers me & very content. Streetlights on Highland

12.2: None- I love Elmhurst! Lived here 6-10 years as an adult. Grew up here! We love Elmhurst. We grew up here, met at York (my parents met at Bryan) and are happy to raise our kids in this community. I do wish that more tax \$ could go to the schools. It is a shame that our community struggles to make the school budget balance but gets a new fountain downtown.

Keep on top of the homebuilders. I'm not the only one out there with a complaint. Section 6 Building Code Tree Top Construction caused damage to my car. I have estimates from auto shop.

I am in the salt creek school district- a small community adjacent to Eldridge park. It is the only part of Elmhurst not attending Elmhurst schools. We and others in our neighborhood would entertain an increase in taxes if it would give us this opportunity. Because of this segregation, I feel largely disconnected from Elmhurst- this would appear to be mutual given the lack of mention of the salt creek school district in the Elmhurst press. I would welcome a discussion with my Alderman or other appropriate official on this topic. Thank you. Also, we would be interested in discussing removing the basketball courts from the park. It interferes with the

children playing in the playground and creates noise disturbing for the residences. This is in reference to Eldridge park.

3.13: - Mosquito Control - We do not like the spraying 12.1: – (s.) Other Why is there not a section regarding dist. 205 and educational issues? This subject reflects on all other sections!! In regards to my section 12 - Gen Comments O. Other - my wife and I moved to Elmhurst in 1968. We raised three children here, two of which graduated from Elmhurst College and one from IL Wesleyan (All CCIW). In the past, we've always thought well of our schools. Yet in the last few years, it seems school administrations, from superintendents, to Asst. Supers, to heads of curriculum and instruction, have come and gone leaving principals and teachers, especially at the grammar school level, without directional continuity and with never ending change. We ask 'why is this happening'? It seems there is conflict between the school board and administration. If so, why? Lowering costs presents problems. Spending on things that don't work so well is not good. Employing fewer special ED. teachers and lowering resources while moving special ED kids into mainstream classrooms often results in impossible tasking for mainstream teachers and students, especially when test scores are more and more the measure of success. Too much standardized testing leads to lost learning styles. But if this is the new direction at Dist. 205, the board should consider that advancing test score achievement without increasing Spec Ed assistants and money in mainstream classes won't work well. Lastly, school board members and teachers should have periodic, mandatory meetings to discuss new procedures and efficiencies. Rumors have it that up to a couple of years ago, a teacher and school board member could not speak together without the teacher's job being threatened. In a well-run business, there is usually some form of give and take from top managers down to the broad base of an operation. We need to remember that the students are the "product" of the system. We would like to see an 'education' section in future surveys. Remember that schools affect real estate values and the city as a whole. Thank you.

I am concerned with flooding issues in my neighborhood. I am concerned with the speed of the trains that travel behind my house.

7.6: none 10.8: Skunks - Elmhurst City Animal Control

I have watched the city council meetings on TV and am appalled by the arguing and disrespect I see given to needs of older Elmhurst citizens. Additionally, I feel there is definitely more credence given to needs of those that move big \$!! Regular Elmhurst citizens, - non-multimillion are ignored and left to slop in flooded homes and streets! Also, no regulation of builders and quality of work. Streets ruined by builder trucks!

With the cost of water going up it will become more difficult to maintain the attractive appearance of property landscaping. People who garden are penalized the cost for water that does not go into the sewer system

Over the past seven years, the demographics of residents living here has greatly changed. There are more low-income rentals, which brings with it, crime. This is due to landlords not being held accountable to those they rent to. These residents have children attending our schools and because they are low income they qualify for free services, which in turn drain resources at the schools. There needs to be restraints on how many section 8 housing there can be in the area.

10.8: - Police protection - Not Enough - Could use more cars patrolling neighborhoods. The city needs to get control of the flooding problems in certain areas of Elmhurst. Also, maintain excellent schools and opportunities for our children. I've grown up in Elmhurst my entire life. It is a great community. I believe people don't mind the high taxes if the schools are top notch and the services are excellent. Elmhurst needs to be safe for residents. The increase in burglaries and crime is alarming. I would prefer more police presence in town and neighborhoods.

10 years ago, I wrote a letter to Public Works about how bad our curbs were. The manager came out that week and the curbs were replaced that summer. Excellent! 5 years ago, I wrote a letter about an abandoned van that was in a neighbor's driveway for 15 years. It was gone in a week. Excellent! Last year, I emailed the Park District about a low hanging branch for the Prairie Path. It was trimmed the next day. Excellent! I think the city and its related agencies work hard at being customer centric. They provide good service. Thanks!

12.2: (s.) Other - Dependable electric service

9.8: (b.) Very poor! 10.8:-Need additional free pick up for yard waste! 10.8:-Are you kidding? Serious Problems! 12.2: (s.)

Mismanagement of funds-Prioritization seems off -I don't mind tax increases where they are necessary but use the funds you have properly FIRST. -Elmhurst is losing its luster, for sure.

I would like the park district to have more areas for children. To have you go to other cities and they have gyms, rec centers, pools for children to use year around.

The addition to flood control efforts, the north York Rd development should continue to be a priority in order to help keep taxes down.

3.15: Yard-waste stickers are ridiculous in price. 3.16: As an avid recycler, it makes me angry to see yard-waste materials mixed in with recycle or refuse, by the garbage collectors. Overall great schools, convenient locations, neighbor friendly- very nice place to live.

1 - Family member used 911 + was transported to hospital - May 2013. Found bill for that unusually high. They were visiting from RI, where brother-in-law works for fire dept. They don't charge anywhere near that rate. 2 - Snow removal was pretty good considering bad winter. Please advise drivers to try to find the curb before snow mounded up. 3. Question the direct

route of water into storm sewers from newer codes. Any civil engineer has an elementary calculation for roof size and runoff. City is slow to address this basic problem created by code, which puts stormwater in gutters and drain; will never be able to handle this. 4. - Experiencing bad congestion on York Rd South and North in late afternoon.

Skunks. I can't believe the amount I pay in taxes that we have to buy books @ York. I'm sick of worrying about flooding every time rain is in the forecast. My insurance has gone up due to flooding. Also, tired of power outages. Arlington is a raceway between St Charles and railroad tracks. Plss What goes there? Looks terrible, right now.

York H.S. was considered one of the best - Now all you hear about are the DRUGS!! I lived here to have my children attend but decided to send them to private H.S. Taxes are ridiculous - Kids take over the city center and Wilder Park is loaded with kids and drugs at night on weekends!

As residents paying increasing property taxes, the issue of flooding has to be resolved!!

We have only lived in Elmhurst 5 months so our knowledge of the city services is limited.

1.8: Do not know; didn't live here. 5.7: Do not know. 9.15: Good to know, I will now sign up
Impressed with how the building permit department handled our sewer issue.

5.7: Need to add recycling containers. Appliance, (ABT) bike store, good shoe store, good bakery, Lowes, Hobby Lobby? No more banks, yogurt, candy, or coffee shops, please! 5.14: Clothing: There is just not a good variety to choose from. The women's boutiques are extremely trendy, and not enough normal sizes. 7.11: Poor lighting-hard to see displays clearly 9.15: But I think I will sign up now 10.8: Snow/ice removal: Kept cleaning the streets-at least 10 times one day-& the road was clear (street) Stormwater management: I did not have flood issues, but all my neighbors did. 12.2: McMansions built on tiny lots-contributes to flooding, loss of green space. Comments: I feel unnecessary spending is the norm. Despite all the new tax generating homes, (condos, town houses) property taxes keep going up with less personal income to SHOP Elmhurst. City services need to start funding their retirements & insurance-just like everyone else. All new developments should be built using green initiatives-solar panels, water permeable walkways, prairie landscaping-this type of development would attract people to experience a forward-thinking community. Require everyone to disconnect rainspouts from city sewer to lawns; with smart planning, city services can operate more frugally; save money for projects that are needed but can wait. It will be hard to retire & continue to live in Elmhurst if property tax is 75% of my income. I am part of the 99%-and I budget so I can live here. The city has to do a better job.

Recycling - we need a place close to center of town to get rid of recycling items that we can't put in our regular garbage pick-up. Sidewalks on York slant to the street - very hard to push and walk with someone in a wheelchair; you go right toward the curb and street...dangerous. Used

911 several years ago - several times they are the best for responding; very professional and their service and the respondents are the best.

The ornamental trees Elmhurst is planting are not pretty. Elmhurst should plant real, full-grown trees in the parkways instead, even at the risk of maintaining larger branches.

12.2: (s.) Knockdowns & McMansions

We need to plant more trees. This town was beautiful before the trees were removed; replace and add. Also, take care of the sidewalks; they're horrible.

Every year I have noticed an increase in the transient inhabiting public places; library, benches, downtown. What can we do for these people? Very concerned about the drug problems that are making the Elmhurst news more frequently (i.e. heroin, crack, cocaine busts, at York High School). Please visit section 8 home to ensure upkeep of homes.

Good idea sending this.

- 1) The conservatory at Wilder Park should be enlarged for better floral displays and visitations.
- 2) As Octogenarians, the city of Elmhurst has become more of a visual reality rather than a physical participation.

12.2: (q.) Traffic Speed - In my neighborhood. I have lived on Claremont St., 54 years. In that period of time the through traffic has increased. It's presently no longer neighborhood resident traffic - but a through street; possibly to avoid the three-way stop at Hagans & Elm Park. I do believe we should post a sign - "no-thru traffic". Furthermore, most drivers exceed the 25mph speed limit.

2.1: - No. but on 3/27/12, we did call 911. Ambulance 5.11: - addt'l comments: We have lived in Elmhurst for 16 years. Businesses that we miss that are no longer in Elmhurst include Baileys Restaurant, Anderson's Book store, and Ruby's Dept. Store. 11.2: A. Male Age 79 & b. Female Age 74 We live on St. Charles Road. No trucks should use St. Charles but we frequently see trucks on the road. Also, speeding both east and west bound is a problem; Also tailgating, even if turn signals are "on". We expect to be rear-ended while pulling into our driveway. In our quadrant, quality of sidewalks is inconsistent. We especially my husband, walk a lot (cardiac exercise). We have to watch for cracks, holes, missing corners, unlevelled sections to avoid falling. Joseph and Dawn Siranovic

I would like to see people have garbage, yard waste, etc., put out only on garbage day. Also, put garbage cans away the same day as pick up.

5.11: (g.) Other - addt'l comments: No more yogurt/ice cream shops! 9.15: (l.) None - Didn't

know this was available.

I think the city centre should have a section for overnight parking. I'm all for people going out and having a good time. If those people choose to be responsible and cab it home, they shouldn't be ticketed! We allow bars and restaurants (which I'm all for and visit often) but I've had friends cars left in the garage so they can take a cab. When they came back to a ticket, they decided to start visiting other town/areas. We need overnight parking! Not everywhere but maybe one garage!

I frequently use the courts plus facility. Whenever I see a police car at the facility it is going through the lot checking cars for city stickers. However, there is a stop sign in the main driveway that many people pay no attention to. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic. I would like to see the sign either enforced or removed.

11.4: Owned 1996 – 2014, Now Rent

3.7: Snow/Ice removal (5)/Excellent - Past Years (3) Fair - This Past Winter

12.2: (s.) other - Curbs along McKinley between Spring & Mitchell Power outages Comments: A stop sign was placed on the corner of Swain and McKinley. I have been living on this corner for over 20 years, I believe the stop sign should have been placed on Swain- going North and South, not McKinley East and West. People drive from Vallette to Madison with no stops, so obviously they are "flying" down Swain when Mckinley already has a stop sign on Mitchell. For safety reasons, I believe it should be reviewed...Please reconsider putting the "stop" sign on Swain.

5.11: (b.) -Reasonable \$ 7.2:(e.) - (kids) 10.1:-I would of liked a list of examples -MANY streets throughout Elmhurst are crumbling and full of potholes (Armitage and First are just a couple of many). -Many cars use West Ave as an alternative to a congested 83 and are traveling at a high speed. -Traffic congestion and parking are serious concerns in Elmhurst, but nothing has been done to encourage transportation by bike in the main business district. There are NO bike lanes or even simply bike racks uptown or throughout our community. Biking should be promoted and encouraged for health and other environmental benefits. -This town and the Park District have always lacked in providing facilities or activities for the children age teen-young adults. For centuries, Elmhurst has refused to entertain any type of ideas or facilities that would entertain our teen population and hence forcing them to find ways of entertaining themselves in inappropriate or illegal ways. -Along the same line would be a lack of indoor sporting facilities. Elmhurst is a town of many athletes with a lot of them involved in club or travel teams. Because we cannot accommodate year round play, a lot of our families have to go outside of Elmhurst to use other cities multipurpose sports facilities. i.e. (Westmont Yard and McCook). -Another concern is all the vacant buildings/properties. In the last several years, the new businesses that have opened have been the same "type" of businesses that already exist in Elmhurst. There have not been any fresh new "family" style businesses. We need more fun family oriented

restaurants, so we don't have to go to Oak Brook or Lombard which have every type of restaurant offering (i.e. Chilis, Cheddars or Granite City)

Our street (Sunnyside Ave) from St. Charles to the Prairie Path needs to be replaced. It is in TERRIBLE shape! Also, would like to see the street sweepers more often. Need to do a better job trimming the parkway trees. -Water bills are outrageous! -City needs to get out of the Real Estate Business. People that need overhead sewers should pay for it themselves. The City should not pay for any part of it! Building Dept. needs to do a better job of enforcing new construction rules (Keeping streets clean, cleaning up debris, enforcing work hours) Builders need to follow the rules! Pouring concrete in weather that's below freezing! -Stevens Steak House has been vacant way too long!

Fix flooding problems. Middle-class housing is disappearing. New homes all tend to be too big and too expensive. Green space is disappearing. Young families cannot afford to move in and moderately priced (and sized) housing isn't available.

The city government is overregulating where it should not be; and not adequately managing the tasks that it should be focused on (e.g., core infrastructure upgrades). Grabowski is a horrible, overpaid city manager (191K and a full pension? And why is he or anyone else on City Staff making over 40k a year even getting a pension instead of paying into a 401(k) like the rest of we mere peons making private sector wages??). The municipal City Staff are not particularly impressive for what they are getting paid either. Aldermen seem to spend lots of time fetishizing their own personal small stuff and deliberately being obstructive (see Diane G) and do things that will harass local residents/property owners (including local businesses struggling to survive), while not taking care of the "big picture" items that are properly within the scope of the city's ambit. Aldermen do NOT possess any particular expertise about the city, yet for certain of them, every one of their emotions about something seems to translate into a proposal that we the people then get to bear the burden of. Members of our family have spoken with seven aldermen over the last year on various occasions, and perhaps one of them seemed to actually be sensible, thoughtful, and actually responsive to concerns. The delays before City Council of the larger development projects also have been absurd. Local businesses are getting killed on property taxes, and the City Council keeps delaying much-needed downtown development to bring more people into the city center that could help those businesses live. People are getting squeezed on property taxes, and the Aldermen in committees talk about adding more recycling bins, or making sure no two houses look alike, or talk about sprinkler systems, or talk about whether we should mandate a parking garage door to open on an alley or a street, having ordinances where people or their visitors can't park in front of their own homes without getting a parking ticket during the daytime or overnight. STUPID. The City needs to cut spending and stave off long-term budget problems; particularly take on the school board about coming up with more creative ways to get more bang for the buck on our education dollars (encourage homeschooling, vouchers, etc.--I shudder to think what our taxes would be if parents decided to stop sending their kids to IC); and LEAVE PEOPLE

ALONE and let us have more autonomy instead of trying to pass a new law every time someone who lives in the city wants to complain about something. (The "Hot dog" lady is a perfect example--yet I understand as well, why should storefront businesses be punished for complying with our byzantine regulations when she can just put out a pushcart and avoid property taxes, inspections, sprinkler systems, etc.??). The City keeps raising our taxes for no further meaningful benefit. Make more items referenda and let the people vote on line item budget items instead of squabbling about things at City Council. About the only thing I have seen the city do over the past two years that makes sense was convert longer-term debt over to new bonds with lower interest rates. Oh, and Mayor Morley seems to have oodles of patience every time he presides over a City Council meeting, when half the time he seems to be ruefully thinking, "I can't believe I have to deal with these idiots" on City Council. Also, the fact that the City isn't building retention ponds in areas to try to control water is mind-boggling. A million dollars on a consultant spent so far could have gone a long way to buy people out and build retention ponds where the streets flood. Why aren't you doing that despite THREE YEARS since the 2010 flood? Or is it just easier to blame it on the park district for not giving you land?

Storm water handling is terrible. Stay on builders to repair streets better Need more parking at Pioneer Park. Get builders to shovel snow at houses in winter. Paid too much for sewer & storm water handling study. I expect that it will not help us and you won't get people who live near these storage facilities to go along with it. I wouldn't either. So you paid all the money for no good reason. Seems as if city services are partial to people in fancy neighborhoods.

I need my parkway trees drastically trimmed. Some branches are 10ft from my house front. I don't want a big branch inside my living room after a windstorm.

12.1: - Quality of schools - not so good frankly. 12.2: - 3 We need a dog park. 12.2: - 1 (s.) Other - The trains! Forget their noise - how about they tie up traffic!! Comments: 1 - We need a dedicated dog park where folks can legally let dogs off leash. 2 - The police are awesome but really, enough with the ridiculous parking tickets and traffic violations for people driving 5 to 10 miles over the limit. 3 - I know you can't do anything about them but God I hate all the trains that come through this town.

Further investigation into flooding. Horrible power outages - sometimes almost 1 week long Some concerns re: development of old hospital site and the potential influx of students at Field School as a result of the additional families.

Traffic speed It's been well over a year since we have seen any traffic enforcement being conducted on Stratford Ave. Storm sewer maintenance/rear yard drain water affects us and five other homeowners due to low elevation at end of block. A few years ago we had the city come out and look into this problem and no measures were taken to correct this problem.

1.8: - Not here 5 years ago 5.7: - Not here then 5.8: - Don't know When I called to inquire about

the lack of snow removal, I was told cul-de-sacs were plowed last. I'm not on a cul-de-sac. Berkley is plowed around 6 hours before we are. Very frustrating to see other side streets clean. Ours not done for "hours".

12.2: (s.) Other - Noise from lawn & leaf crews - small gas engine noise. City hires too many employees that do jobs better suited to private sector. For example: replace entire parking ticket force with coin meters for all spots; and let a private company issue violations; other cities do it with red light cameras.

Snow removal in Elmhurst seems worse than our adjacent neighbors. My street doesn't get plowed often. Elmhurst property taxes are too high. Which in turn affects housing prices. Young families can't afford to live in this town. So Elmhurst will not remain vital. The cost of paying for pensions for full time city workers is causing property taxes to continue to rise. Yard waste collection costs are high too. The pavers used in City Centre are so uneven that tripping and stumbling is often. My disabled friend does not frequent the area because the pavers are extremely dangerous. I like the warm colors of the pavers but they should NOT be uneven. I do not like the look of the fountain in the off-season, and the Christmas tree not being in the City Centre is a bad idea. The white decorations are very unattractive. They look cheap and dirty. I live on a street that is close to York and St. Charles. Many cars speed down the blocks trying to avoid that intersection. A dog was hit by a car and a cat was killed by a speeding car, between St. Charles and South St on Arlington Avenue. Where the Prairie Path crosses York Rd is extremely dangerous! If pedestrians have right of way, a person will walk into street and be killed. Car drivers make mistakes every day. The pedestrian should stop and wait, not the cars. It will save a walker or a biker's life!

Parking downtown is generally OK after 5:30 and weekends (when stalls/lots are marked free shopper parking those times), but more is definitely needed - especially during working hours. I have read a lot about the proposed Addison Street parking deck and in my opinion the most important thing to be considered is a vibrant downtown area - which I believe means providing sufficient parking for shoppers and employees. I would have attended the public hearings on this topic, but when I heard people were talking in excess of 5 or 10 minutes, decided I had better ways to spend my time. I would have submitted a written public comment, but did not know how to do so. Compliance with speed limits generally seems to be low throughout the City. This is especially evident and troubling in residential areas. Recommend a public education campaign on stop sign operations (who has right-of-way). For a city with this many stop signs, understanding of how they should operate is very low (it's not always the first person to arrive who has the right-of-way). Southbound York at Third - recommend extending the southbound right turn lane north to Hahn Street and removing underutilized parallel parking spaces in this area. Southbound backups in the PM peak hour...extend past Hahn. Traffic turning right onto Third uses the Hahn right turn lane and the parallel parking spaces to bypass the queue - creating conflicts with cars that correctly do not enter the right turn until they are south of Hahn Street. Finally, why is St. Charles Road only 1 lane in each direction through Elmhurst, but

2 lanes in each direction in Villa Park and Berkeley? I do not believe that this bottleneck through Elmhurst is beneficial to our community.

4.13: - Retired! Used to be 11-15 miles. 4.14: - Used to drive 7.5: - Children's Program No Opinion - Though they sound good in newsletters. 7.22: - We used to do a lot more of this! Now in our 90's... 10.8: - Historical museum programs/services - No Opinion - Sound good - we just don't get there 10.8: - Stormwater mgmt. - We know you're trying, especially on the south end of town. 11.2: - Female - (but my husband agrees with what I've marked! 12.1: - 1. (i.) Quality of life - So many of these other items contribute to this one. 12.2: - Airplane noise - In Summer o. Traffic congestion on York St. 12.2: - but really, we adapt to all these! We've enjoyed living here for over 60 years - Elmhurst was/is a good choice. See comments throughout: We think the city tries to do its best. You can't please everyone all the time. You face lots of complex situations and regulations. Having enough money to do all you'd like to do will continue to be a central problem.

12.2: (s.) Other - Unreliable electricity 12.3: (s.) Other - Electricity service Snow removal in my neighborhood was worse of anywhere along my daily commute. I have to call to get parkway tree sprouts removed. My neighbor has a pine tree "weed" growing next to a full-grown deciduous tree. Any rainstorm and there is a foot of water in the street - not enough drainage. Electricity reliability is horrible. There are Great Lakes cities that rarely have power outages around Buffalo NY, Cleveland, OH, Detroit MI, Milwaukee, WI. Why can't we learn what they do? Suggestion: Find out how Lakewood, OH does it. We are very concerned about infrastructure deterioration. Our taxes are already high and State of Illinois is likely to raise taxes more.

How do you rate the overall visibility of police in: "See too many Police" Budget Cut Here 2.12: Neighborhood - Too Many 2.13: City as a whole - Too Many 2.14, 2.15, 2.16: - Would avoid using! How safe do you feel: 2.20: thru 2.24: Very Safe due to neighbors, not due to Police! Building and Code Enforcement 6.2 thru 6.5: Very Poor - Been "lied" to, not act impartial, etc. 9.14: - Other suggestions: Send info in mail, more transparency, be truthful... 10.7: - Poor - Not transparent enough! Comments: TIF districts, Poorly executed Housing, no middle-income new housing Police dept., department staffing too large. City Gov't/Depts. - Not "Living within Means", i.e., too many new city buildings, etc. City taxes too high City over-reacting (?) i.e., Riverside Drive "Condemnation" should be "negotiate" adult-like. Newspaper article attached.

My taxes have tripled since I moved here. Dealing with surgery on both feet and then a cancer diagnosis has left me unable to afford to live here much longer.

The Elmhurst Tree Division even though they have the newest equipment, area slow & ill organized group that needs closer supervision.

The lack of storm water containment is critical to the city. Housing prices and water in the

basement are two critical issues that may force me to move.

I think the city administration does a very good job in providing city services throughout the community.

How safe do you feel: 2.22: - 4 Safe - In some of the "outlying" parks - edges of Elmhurst, I feel less safe (ex: Salt Creek Park, Butterfield Park) 5.11: - Chain Restaurants somewhere in Elmhurst - Please! One or two!! 10.1: - Taxes are too high! COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS: 1-Section 10 - Budget: I believe taxes are too high, and I/we do not receive any extraordinary services due to this. I think tax money has been wasted or used on unnecessary projects. 2. Please! Bring back an Animal Control officer! And Please! Take "dogs off leash" more seriously. It's an ordinance, and one that should be strictly enforced! 3. Why is there no cost sharing for Elm Tree Injections for parkway elms!?! We are living in ELMhurst!!!! Let's keep our remaining elms thriving! 4. We need a dog park!!! Maybe with a small yearly fee for residents, and a "pass card" entry - to keep other people and dogs out (non-residents) 5. Again, please find a way to control our skyrocketing taxes!!!

5.7: No opinion. The city seems to not be moving or moving way to slow on storm sewer management. The streets need sweeping much more in the storm season. We rarely see a street sweeper. Cities with a much smaller tax base sweep streets once a week. I see signs in quite a number of towns where street parking is banned on days of sweeping. Gutters should not be connected to storm sewers in these massive houses that are way too big for the lots. Our newly redone streets are being ruined immediately by new mansions that are being connected to sewers. Make the builders pay to repave properly. Helicopters are flying over houses way too low. Either ban them except for emergencies or make them fly higher. The City Hall is run very professionally and the employees are great.

12.2: - (s.) Other - New homes built way too close to property lines, thus new owners and builders, etc., have to use my property to access their back property, etc. One more thing on new homes: I previously for many years could look out my windows and see sky, trees, birds, etc., and now I feel like I'm in prison and only see brick walls. I have to keep my drapes closed, the walls are so close.

2.14-2.16: There were two: second; good, poor, very poor. 5.11: Other: tea/coffee with a garden in back-a peaceful place to meet friends. 12.1: Walk-ability 12.2: (s.) Construction noise & mess. Where I live, on Spring Rd, I consider the traffic dangerous. I also have a neighbor who is frightening, so I don't feel safe. The reason I feel the quality of life has declined is the resumption of construction activity, with the noise, dust, and traffic congestion, and the loss of green space and increase of flooding because of the larger houses on smaller lots. I would like to see the present homeowners better protected. I had two experiences with the police. One officer was very rude and unhelpful. The other was very professional and courteous.

Better coordination of street construction projects so every street is not being worked on at the same time. Events that brought outsiders into the community are all gone - Cool Cars, French Market, Elm Fest. These brought money into Elmhurst. Business development/North York needs immediate attention - St. Charles & 83 - These are important for sales tax generation=property tax relief. Great Schools are fine but if you do not have young families for community spirit you will have a building! When we moved here, there was a sense of community - no longer felt. John A & Dorothy Ciebien

Comments within survey: 3.2-3.4: Good response and courtesy- issue not improved. 7.7: Audio books used download and CD's 10.2: Not happy about new Hahn street project with a movie theater....we have one and should support it. Shame on city council. General comments: I am concerned about the sidewalk clearance width on Vallette at the railroad crossing between Windsor Drive and the north side of the railroad crossing; there are three streets intersecting and a bicycle path all in a small area just south of that same crossing. The sidewalk on the west side of Vallette is very narrow, butts right up to the street, and is very busy with walkers and cyclists. Drivers on Vallette travel fast, have many traffic issues to observe and do not have a clear view of cyclist and walkers. There has been more than one near accidents in this location. I have called about this issue more than once. My concerns have been dismissed based on a traffic study made before the recent repaving of Vallette. I would like the city to have a representative come out to this location with me to discuss my concerns.

9.14: (j.) Other suggestions: Banners on the Schiller Street railroad over pass/Banners in downtown and elsewhere 4.1 & 4.2: Need more parking 4.8: Speeders down Walnut St., north of North Ave. 5.2: Need more parking

Section 3- Public Works Dept. 3.2: - Still Waiting 5.14: - Outside Elmhurst - Since Plass closed, too many people speed down side streets. Shopping in downtown - received tickets for parking too long - Dinner and a movie 3+ hours. I wish streets near Elementary schools were patrolled or at least one-way during dismissal. Bryan school looks awful - take a walk around it - outside part. Thank you!

Comments: 12.2: (2): Power outages.

Section 8- Finance Dept. 8.2 thru 8.4: - Very Poor - Needed information for work. I was sent to every window. Not one person had a clue. All I needed was stickers for work!!! 1. As someone who works in town, you need to listen to the fact that you need to do something about parking. It is my customers' first complaint, about shopping in town. Plus, people who work in town should get some type of discount on parking permits. 2. Is it necessary to keep raising the prices on lawn/waste stickers? You want people to keep up the appearance of their homes, but believe me, many people in town are CHEAP, and they don't want to spend the money on stickers, so they store bags of leaves and such until we have free days. 3. What is with not picking up dead animals in the street? Why are homeowners told to pick them up and throw

them in the garbage? I've lived here over fifteen years and have inquired numerous times about having my front tree trimmed. Well, it took that long before they were trimmed. And you may want to keep in mind when you get these contractors to do things, that some of us keep our property clean. I picked up more branches when they were done. I had to clean the street so that the branches didn't clog the sewers. Plus, I filled a garbage can with branches that, yes, I had to pay for the sticker. Since I am a walker, I notice the sidewalks. You really need to work on this situation. Instead of sitting behind a desk every day, get out and look at the city you take care of.

Parking enforcement seems at times a bit aggressive & actually acts as a deterrent. People coming to the downtown, which is exactly the opposite of the implied purpose. Hopefully, a parking solution can be found quickly.

Residential sidewalks and many downtown area streets- very hazardous in many sections - Dump 50/50 payment. 25 mph limit on many East - West Side Streets - Joke!! Armitage, Fremont, Grantly Veh Stickers Free Brush pick-up - 1 Day per month, May - Nov, check City of West Chicago. They have it for decades.

There should be some kind of ordinance regarding the placement of permanent basketball nets/poles. A permit should be required. And balls/poles should not be erected at neighboring driveways/car, especially within 3-4 feet.

Flooding in all areas of the city. We don't need a parking garage- we need the sewer fixed. We have had basements take on water on Willow and Schiller area as well as on Larch between Fremont and Armitage- three or four times.

12.2: - (s.) Other - Wide gap between the well off and the have-nots. Mansion, gas-guzzler, and 5 pairs Ugg boots for kids vs. 10-year-old car, old run down house and Wal-Mart clothing. Hard for "poor" kids here. 12.3: (g.) Maintaing quality of life-with limited income 12.3: (p.) Substance abuse - seems rampant among youth. It would be nice to have a place for musical kids to "jam" and perhaps artistic kids to draw or paint. Some type of city or park district facility for these kids to hang out and do what they enjoy. I am not sure what Elmhurst offers seniors who cannot do yard work or other odd jobs. Some houses seem to be occupied by seniors who cannot keep them up in my area. I am not sure if there is a safe way to match kids looking to earn a few dollars or volunteer with seniors but that would be nice.

My biggest concern for Elmhurst is the rising property taxes. I've seen a consistent rise in the tax rate over the past 5 years and I'm fearing only the wealthiest can afford to live here now. Most families I know require both parents to work in order to afford to stay here, and that is the case in our household as well. We were lucky enough to move to Elmhurst in the early nineties before the housing boom. I still have the Chicago magazine article awarding Elmhurst best town in its class. The town won largely because of its low taxes and terrific school system.

We wouldn't win the award today. I'll be looking to move as soon as my kids are out of the school system. I can't justify paying these taxes without my kids being in District 205.

12.2: - (s.) Other - Trains block crossings

Yard waste stickers are too expensive

5.11: - (g.) Other - Some type of store to generate more tax revenue. 12.1: - (o.) Other - The Schools 12.2: - (s.) Other - Snow plowing of streets

The only thing I am disappointed in is that the small area I live in is not considered part of the Elmhurst school district. I live in Elmhurst, we are part of the Elmhurst Park District for my children, we pay taxes to the City of Elmhurst, yet we have to go to a district NOT completely located in Elmhurst. I don't know why a small portion of the City of Elmhurst would be singled out of the schools. I love living in Elmhurst and I love our neighborhood because it is secluded and quiet but I don't like how it is slightly cast out as not 100% a part of the entire city of Elmhurst.

Make sure the North side of the town receives the same services the rest of the town gets. Why are all (majority) of car dealers in Bensenville and vacant on Elmhurst side of Grand Ave?

1. Simply enforce the speed laws rigorously! 2. In each issue of the "Front Porch", devote some space to the City's budget, finances, etc. (to educate). Don't wait until 'Crisis Time' and let the Elmhurst Press handle it.

With West Niles Virus visiting us every year, it is more important each year to stay "on top" of the issue. More - I'm not sure what needs to be done to protect the citizens.

1.5: The Elmhurst Community as a place to retire – 3- Fair - Taxes - Section 3 Public Works Dept. 3.14: - 5 - Excellent - Refuse Collection - Too big 3.15: - Yard Waste – Expensive. Section 4 - Traffic and Transportation 4.4: Traffic Enforcement 3 Fair - Traffic too fast 4.8 - Traffic Speed Compliance - in Your neighborhood Poor - York & Washington Section 6 Building and Code Enforcement 6.2 thru 6.4: - Poor - Follow through 10.8: - Animal Control - No opinion - Discontinued? 12.1: (o.) Other - Taxes too high

Many nearby cities have unlimited trash pickup, like it used to be here. Flooding problems Taxes should be reduced due to decreased home values.

2.19: - Good - This was the first warning I received in 30 years "seatbelt". The rest have all been tickets for "very minor" violations. The Elmhurst Police do not help anyone. They try to get you for anything they can. Please do not build a 6-story monster parking deck. If they have to build one, make it 4 stories only. Do they realize whatever they build will be there for the next

hundred years.

This survey failed to include the Park District, and although we like the outdoor pools and the variety of programs it offers, we would love to see a better Gym facility, modernized with a better building, pool, classes, and child drop off center. The Wagner Center could also benefit from a remodeling.