
2016 City of Elmhurst Citizen Survey

SECTION III

GENERAL COMMENTS - 2016

2016 Citizen Survey Comments

1. Full time Mayor 2. Better traffic control York Rd 3. More stores in downtown

10.3 I don't pay attention since I think the town is great.

12.2 - Other - Lack of bike lanes/accessory

12.2 - s. Other - Lack of dining options 12.3 - s. Other - School census/overcrowding

12.3 - S. Other - School Performance Scores

Change the speed limit on Spring Road to 30mph.

City stickers are too expensive.

Cost of water - 2 to 3 times is excessive.

Cost of water supply and reclamation doubled?!

Downtown will probably be overcrowded after the new buildings are finished.

Elmhurst is a beautiful town to live. Friendly neighbors. Also police protection is safe.

Fix the downtown area streets, they are terrible.

Fix the flooding problem now, moving at glacial pace.

Hope the city can continue doing good things for the people who live here!

I have experienced flood damage to my home repeatedly, over the past 16 years.

I think it is my own fault for being unaware of budget reports and issues.

I wish there are more and better ethnic restaurants and services in the Elmhurst city center.

Install a train by-pass on West Avenue

Lack of planning downtown - need more variety of shops and services, many businesses fail.

More aggressive storm water abatement for new homes being built.

Mosquito control and have not seen any mosquito trucks out in 2015 at all.

My other negative about Elmhurst is the train schedules, blocking York, etc.

Need more reasons to shop in Elmhurst. Better restaurant scene.

Note! Overall a great place to live and shop.

Parking is still poor in Elmhurst.

Remove ice & snow from driveways after snowplows pass through.

Too many questions.

Too much of a sanctuary for the uncivilized.

Too much ticketing by police - over vigilant in writing tickets.

Too strict on overnight street parking and parking so you block the sidewalk.

Very happy in Elmhurst. Thank you.

What is the reason for vehicle stickers - I see none.

York Road traffic and difficulty turning onto the road.

Continue efforts to reduce the cost of city services & all taxes.

Reduce real estate taxes (people over 90 years should be exempt from paying for schools).

With the taxes we pay why do we also have to pay for leaf pickup & yard waste stickers?

Overall, City services seem great. I've never had a problem. I do wonder why I see so many drivers talking or texting on their phones (not hands-free) every time I'm driving around town. Doesn't seem that this law is being enforced very well, which worries me having a teen driver (both because I want her to know that the police will enforce it against her, and so that she's not trying to navigate around so many distracted drivers).

Downtown is a disaster relating to this mix of retail offerings. Do not need more banks or coffee shops!

I am new to the area, but one deficit that I can see already is the shopping area south of the prairie path on York. For example, the abandoned Chase bank looks like it has had better days. Some focus on this area with its closed and abandoned buildings would help improve the look of the city.

The corridor north of North Avenue needs massive improvement. There are many empty buildings and old buildings. There aren't many choices in dining aside from fast food and old run down food options. Although the Mariano's and the development where the old Mayan

waterpark hotel is a good step forward, more development is needed in the north corridor. I am aware of the streetscaping plans for this area, but more is needed than simple improvements such as this. As an adult, I feel like there is no good place to go hang out. I work in Schaumburg and that place has many different entertainment options. I understand that we like mom and pop's stores, but sometimes they just don't cut it. I would love to see a brewpub and better dining options such as Rock Bottom, RAM Restaurant, Gordon Bierch, and Beer Market. It seems like most of the development that is happening is housing. This will only create more traffic to an already congested York St.

The height of the building being approved & built in the city over 3-4 stories is unsightly. Our town is losing its character. Traffic congestion is terrible; you cannot drive from one end of town to the other (n-s). The new apartment building on York & North will only make things much worse, regardless of what your consultant's survey suggested. This new apartment building on York & North is being advertised as "luxury apartments" my concern is if they cannot fill them what happens then? Vehicle congestion through town; now please do not make it worse by adding bike lanes. (I also ride a bike) Get a program going to get rid of the skunks. I understand changes need to be made for the city to grow- however it is my personal opinion the manner in which we are proceeding is costing our town its quality of life. Reduce police speed traps on York Rd. Have these policemen ticket drivers using hand held cell phones & drivers "texting."

New home construction is out of control! It is changing the city as a whole, it is no longer the town it was 10 years ago. It is doing major damage to local streets when they must be cut open for new service, the patch work is awful and doesn't last and is horrible to drive over. The contractors are horrible too. The sites are an eye sore while they are working - some have empty liquor bottles left behind by workers. The contractors block the streets with their work vehicles; also left wheel to curb is a problem because they are too lazy to park legally. They think they own the streets.

12.4 - Taxes I am working (retirement age) just to pay property taxes. Eventually you will drive me out of the home due to cost.

Section 8 housing that is not maintained and overcrowded with more than one family will be a big problem that Elmhurst will face in the next 5 years. This is a residential neighborhood - trucks with names and constructions equipment is everywhere on driveways and 4-5-6 cars, some with no plates on driveways! Section 8 Housing landlords do not repair or clean homes that they rent out! I live North of North Avenue and people said they did not know that was Elmhurst (of course they lived in South Elmhurst). Banners or something need to be put up to keep it looking the same as south Elmhurst. I have seen other towns with cohesive banners.

I feel the city services are good, caring and helpful. When we needed help, we received help. There are workers available to help and answer questions in a caring way. I feel things are running well.

With all the open business spots in town, I would hope they would get a bookstore and a shoe store. Not just sports shoes. We seem to have many hair salons and banks. Also, the need for affordable housing for seniors or affordable condos or apartments in all the new areas being developed would be a plus. We are not all extremely wealthy. I know with all the teardowns we are attracting families who can afford expensive shopping but there are those of us on a fixed income that like to utilize downtown shopping but can't afford some of these boutiques and high end stores. For those of us who were here when Bailey's was a favorite dining place, we could use a couple of restaurants like that. Most of us talk all the time how we miss Bailey's when trying to find someplace local to eat. This means we have to go out of Elmhurst.

We live on W. Michigan Street, there are no sidewalks, kids wait in street for the bus, have to walk in the street to school on Park, and with all traffic speeding through it is very dangerous. Have called City, Police, and Alderman Dannee, and Mike for 8 years, nothing done. Have to stop lot from house to avoid all people cutting through parking lot at York and Chest view illegally, have called Police, no help!!! Maybe you can help us. Nobody else will!!!!!! Hopefully kids won't get run over this summer.

Suggestion: Revise building codes to prohibit building of homes that extend to fewer than 12 feet from lot line; Require building footprints to be less than 1/6 of residential lot sq. footage overall - OR - Invest in top-of-the-line storm sewer solutions rather than the current detention pond "Band-Aid" approach.

Very Concerned! Many parkway trees are in decline due to age. There are multiples dead or hanging braches just waiting to fall on a child or a person's head. More concern and general inspiration is needed by the forestry division to ward off a future lawsuit because someone was killed by a fallen limb or branch. Also, the department is LAX of branch pickup due to storm damage. P.S. The parkways are the City's responsibility, not the homeowners. P.S. The south side of Butterfield Road is an eyesore from crumbling asphalt as well as a lack of a usable shoulder. Is this the State's responsibility or Elmhurst? This is the area East of York Road from Cambridge Avenue, all the way to Caldwell. With the lack of funds available to the State for repairs, I would assume Elmhurst isn't responsible. *Please advise.

Living in Elmhurst for 40 years it has been a great place to raise children (now grown), using the parks and library. Schools are extremely important to the community and its property values. Our children used parochial school, middle school, York HS, and Elmhurst College. Overall recognized as a great community both by the residents and people outside of the community. I

struggle with our storm water management as each time a small home is leveled and an extremely large house is put on these small lots we create storm water problems. In addition to the storm water issue the streets are not properly repaired after the new home is completed. Heavily used side streets are in very poor shape. Having to pay and pay for storm water damage and prevention for such a small percentage of homes is not the right approach. If we are going to have to pay 10-12 million a year, just buy out the affected 25-30 homes each year and make it GREEN space. Finally it is difficult to understand the political fighting between the Park District and the City. Maybe too many governing bodies over the same area.

The thru traffic on N Berteau in the mornings and after work is ridiculous!!! People run the school stop sign on a daily basis, honk at the school bus when I am strapping my child in, yell out their windows and curse loudly. It's dangerous and at times it makes me regret moving here. If I wanted that much thru traffic we could have just stayed in the city. When I call the police they come however, during peak hours it would be nice if there was an officer here to slow people down. It is ridiculous how these people drive through our town and my street and have no regard for the safety of the children walking to school and taking the buses. When there is a train at 5:00 pm the traffic is backed down my street to the point I can't pull out of my driveway to go to the grocery store. It would be nice if they stopped the thru traffic coming down N Berteau Avenue. We paid a lot for our house and with the taxes it is upsetting we have to deal with this every day. Someone actually passed a car this morning that was going 35 down our road. They sped around the car and passed them and almost didn't stop at the stop sign because they didn't have time. It's like people think because they are late for work and need to get on the highway or over the train tracks that they can do whatever they want. It's maddening and it happens EVERYDAY!!!! There really needs to be a Trader Joes in Elmhurst. I travel 30-50 via a car once a week. It is a great store with great prices and our residents would benefit from having one here. There also needs to be a walk up window for coffee in the City Centre. When you are walking your dog or pushing a stroller it would be nice to go by a window for a coffee. We have coffee places but no where you can get your coffee while on foot without having to go in. Whoever brings that and a Micro-Brewery to the City Centre would be a rich person!

I gave no poor or very poor ratings however as a citizen I do find it troubling when the city, parks, and schools cannot come together on the issue of flood control.

I walk the neighborhoods and see old cars parked in driveways with expired plates. I see houses not taken care of. This was never allowed in the past. I called about mulch in sidewalk and nothing was done there was so much mulch the stroller wouldn't go thru. I wish the old Elmhurst downtown stores were affordable to shop at.

We've lived in Elmhurst over 25 years. Our property has flooded twice in the past few years. We had some preventive sewer repair/alterations done last year. So far, we haven't had a severe storm to test our alterations, so we'll see. We see more sewer improvements happening around Elmhurst so hopefully we'll never have to deal with a basement full of sewer water again. Both times, we lost everything in our basement and it was very traumatic and discouraging.

Our political leaders, from the mayor on down the line, have always had a tendency to forget that Elmhurst's borders go beyond North Ave. and, in fact, extend all the way to Grand Avenue. In the future, it would be appreciated by the residents if more consideration would be taken into account, and we were given the same amount of thought and respect as, say, the mayor's neighborhood is given. For example, a sidewalk for the safety of our children would be nice. It's a bit unsettling that the children have to walk in the street going to and from the bus stop or to get to school. Even something as simple as the trolley, or a Christmas banner on the light posts would be a welcome addition. Those of us who live in North Elmhurst don't feel like we're part of the "community". Why? Because, unless it's an election year, no one at City Hall knows we exist.

North Elmhurst property values compared to south Elmhurst. My house in south Elmhurst is \$100,000 more. Why is that? And what can my city officials do to fix that. Aren't we all Elmhurst? I pay high taxes and with that I want high to equal property values. Oh I forgot Elmhurst stops at Lake Street. How about a walking trail at Crestview Park like at Berens Park around entire distance with mile markings maybe even chin up/pull bars and incline steps and or sit up plank with foot grips for exercising. Buy back Crestview School to help with school overcrowding. Is it possible to make these improvements without raising our taxes again??

Downtown- So many big buildings now. Traffic in central town will get worse with the narrow York Road one way access. Some really "weird" houses going up! Seems disconnected with overall planning designs seem to look out of place in some areas. "White Elephants!"

1) Improve and repair sanitary & storm water infrastructure to reduce flooding in a timely manner. Too much time has gone by discussing the issues without much resolution and too much money spent on saving a few homes without justification. The city, park district and school district should be ashamed that they can't reach an agreement because of their own special interests or political agendas. 2) Overdevelopment of downtown condos and not enough emphasis on generating retail establishments and sales tax revenue. 3) Overpriced and unnecessary Addison St parking garage was an answer to a question that nobody asked. 4) Poor explanations about why the city of Elmhurst water rates increased by 100% during the past 5 years when no other DuPage County municipality water bills doubled during the same period. 5) The salaries and pensions of city and school workers are exorbitant /excessive.

Consider the number of various reviews in the city. There seem to be a lot of exercise places and restaurants seem to be lacking in diversity. Variation and new concepts should be considered.

I have lived in Elmhurst almost my entire life and at 61 years old am angry that the city has never been able to properly fix the flooding problems that have existed ever since I can remember. It is unacceptable to have to continue to worry about sanitary sewers backing up into our basements especially given the high property taxes we continue to pay in Elmhurst.

Elmhurst doesn't need any more banks! There needs to be more support for local, small business owners and protection against chain operations with no city/community connections. Store fronts should not be empty, even if it means the "property owners," don't make as much money.

The utility poles and wires from Fay north on Glenview are dangerously low and need to be fixed. We have seen trucks get hung up on wires.

Too often, especially in the last year, I see our police officers (some of them) texting while driving, or using their phones in conversation (pretty obvious). How about a mandatory suspension for this. Above the law? Others I have talked to have also noticed this growing trend. Leave the phones at the stations! Additionally as I get around town daily quite a bit. I notice officers, two parked together, parked in some obscure park district or parking lot, just chatting away, often for quite a long time; or just one officer parked somewhere just texting their thumbs off. These people are very well paid. They should do their jobs and save the socializing for their own down time. I found out (I hope I'm wrong), that our FD gets a food budget, on our dimes. That is ridiculous. They can't bring their own food like everyone else who works does? I dare the city to publish this info in the "Front Porch". Plus while they are out filling the shopping cart, how does that factor an increase/decrease in response time? Thank you. Finally, kudos to the public works dept. I always see them working hard; streets are clean, trees trimmed, water service is good, and they are friendly and cooperative when approached.

I think more police presence on the north side of town would be effective in deterring problems, especially around Crestview Park. This part of town has improved over the last few years but is not yet back to the standard of before the "house bubble" burst.

The downtown city centre has vastly improved over the years with a lot of nice new restaurants, shops, and salons. It would make the city look fresher & newer if some of the older streets were re-done, some streets have been repaired many times and it just looks bad. Library is really good with so many great programs. Overall, Elmhurst is a great place to live.

The freight trains that frequently stop on 1st Avenue tracks and block numerous crossings are a tremendous nuisance. I would hope something could be done to better manage this problem. The Elmhurst Park District does a great job with class offerings for kids under 6 years old but has little to offer the 7-15 year olds. Would appreciate more being offered for all ages. The community really lacks a sports complex. Many other towns with a similar property tax base have a community sports center under roof with soccer fields, batting cages, diving, etc. Elmhurst is really lacking in this regard. While I can't speak to the middle schools or high school, the grade schools seem to need numerous upgrades. Student/teacher ratios are climbing, gymnasium and cafeteria space is really inadequate, technology is outdated, no storage, etc. I think the teachers do an incredible job with the relatively poor resources they have to work with.

Think the downtown is going to be over populated and you are creating congestion/traffic issues. We moved here for opposite reasons. Shame on whoever is approving all these high parking decks! 10.8 Parking enforcement - (Added level 5) for service - rating beyond too much. - Comments: Constantly see tickets being issued. We call it "free money".

City Centre is a very nice area. It only suffers from looking drab. It needs a few touches to make it pop. How about a pet store downtown? North Avenue speed trap? Are we that type of suburb? Overall, I love Elmhurst. Best place to raise a family.

I purchased my home in North Elmhurst in 2004. It was a newly built home that I made additions to and added extensive landscaping. My wife and I had 2 children and after a brief time at Conrad Fischer, we decided that our children would receive a better education at I.C. So in addition to my property taxes, slowly going up year after year, I have had to pay for private education for my children without the ability to use the public school system in Elmhurst because of the disregard placed on the quality of education on the North side of Elmhurst. Furthermore, as I prepare to sell my home, I am extremely frustrated because as property values continue to go up throughout Elmhurst; my house has declined in value by 20% since 2004. If you continue to ignore the problems (& perceptions of problems at Conrad Fischer) on the North side of town, you will continue to have this disparity between North and South. The prevalence of ESL students at Conrad Fischer will continue to drive down overall test scores at Conrad Fischer and that is what any young couple with children moving into Elmhurst will look at first when selecting an area to live in. Why not make every school in Elmhurst have a certain percentage of ESL students so Conrad Fischer can "compete" with the other schools when it comes to testing? Until this changes, the South will continue to prosper and the North will languish.

Two things: While the Code Enforcement personnel we worked with this year were super, we were highly disappointed that code enforcement didn't inspect the fence that the unscrupulous

builder put on our property (like by feet!) shortly before selling it. Code Enforcement later looked at it with us and told us the unfortunate news that we'd have to take it up with our new neighbor. =\$\$\$ for us. We feel that City Council is strong-arming for detention basins beyond where they're the smartest option. We understand that in some areas they're the only option, but in most others the long term benefits of investing in infrastructure upgrades are a wiser per-home cost choice. "Faster" isn't always smarter.

I have lived in the North West part of Elmhurst near Emerson school for the past 16 years and have been fighting for sidewalks the entire time. I have gone through the appropriate channels and committees to get sidewalks installed but to no avail. Meanwhile, there seems to be plenty of activity in the downtown area with an abundance of tax dollars to spend on new construction of every sort and sidewalk improvements for those streets that already have sidewalks. The section I live in has continued to see more homes built, more families move in, more kids, more cars etc. This means more traffic and each day on those streets - including mine - that have no sidewalks, children are susceptible to getting hit walking to the bus stops on West Avenue. Elmhurst needs to address this issue before someone's child gets killed. I don't know how a village that touts a "village friendly" reputation like Elmhurst can, in this day and age, not have sidewalks for all residents. It is also not conducive to retirees who could walk to places including the church and parks but need proper sidewalks to do so. This is 2016, not 1916. Sidewalks are the most basic of neighborhood essentials that improve relationships with neighbors. We don't have that. When people who don't live here ask me about living in Elmhurst and I tell them about this issue, they can't believe it. Please take this issue seriously. I have been very vocal about this as have my neighbors. For further conversation or if you'd like to tell me how this will be addressed, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

I'm concerned with the new houses that are going up. There are not enough properties for middle income families to be able to afford. Thus making Elmhurst less diverse. I'm worried about schools overpopulating because of the increase in houses being built-Field for example. What will that do to the schools? Rezone?? Transfer kids?? Scary. I know that living where I do, crime is lower. Because of that police presence is down. Rarely do I see police driving this area. Also, I live right on Alexander. I can't tell you how many times a day people are driving more than 40 MPH. Thank goodness my kids play in the yard. I worry about the economics with the changing City Centre and how hard it is to keep businesses open. I try to shop local when I can, but the turnover is so high. We really don't need another ice cream place. I'm sure you know that.

The city's ten year plan seems wrong. The building of all these condos and apartments downtown. If people wanted this they could move to Oak Park or Downers Grove. Also, the

property taxes are too expensive for older people to stay living in Elmhurst. Also, too many people driving through town going too fast and talking or texting on their phones. Ticket them to raise revenue.

Property taxes seem unsustainable. Like Elmhurst, would not leave for another Chicago community. Please sweep streets more often, looks better. More restaurants would be great. Think tear downs are needed but do not like the construction mess.

Too much government too much \$ committed to museums...if they are not rock star museums, more appropriate for large dense urban areas, they are just there to keep people working and to make it "look like we have a commit". Doubt our expense to attendance is worthwhile. Fire Dept. costs, seriously, how many "valued" efforts were really put forth for the cost, we must employ over 40 fire personnel, I would question an objective assessment that says there have been more than 4-5 real saves per year, why don't we outsource this whole thing, probably could get most if not all of those "saves" anyway.

Have loved living in Elmhurst. Took advantage of much of what the city has to offer while raising our child here. I am recently widowed and retired and hope to spend more time enjoying the opportunities available.

4.7 Bike parking opportunities need to be substantially improved throughout the city. If cars can park in front of all stores why not bike racks (e.g. every store a bike rack)? Sickening the way library is now a travel agency, video store, teenage day care center, and is more concerned about appearance than substance. Library runs on the policy of what people want they will get. So why not porn too? However the individual librarians are wonderful. Gambling please please please no gambling no matter what surrounding communities do. Note the way the number of pawn shops have increased in communities where gambling is ok. Can you imagine "uncle miltey's pawn shop between the railroad trucks and the York theatre? It could happen!

We will probably move out of Elmhurst in the next 2-3 years. Our daughters are out of the school system and school taxes are too high. We have become a city where not many first time homeowners can call Elmhurst their home. That is bad.

I know the City is going through some growing pains right now, particularly in the City Centre where there is a lot of construction. I just hope that businesses do come to Elmhurst to fill up the prospective business vacancies. I am also hoping that there is some plan for the school facilities themselves. There was a referendum for York High School and the Library. Maybe that should be considered for the elementary and middle schools to be modernized. Overall, Elmhurst is a great town to live in and raise a family. I grew up here myself and moved back after living in Chicago for ten years to raise my family.

I do not like the large apartment building going up on York Rd. near Panera. It has no character to the building & simply looks like a city hi-rise. I also am not in favor of yet another apartment building on Addison. We need to maintain the "small community" feel, not turn Elmhurst into Oak Park with all its apartments. The city needs to do something to attract stores & businesses to the downtown area. We have way too many banks in town. I'd love to know how many banks are in town. The schools in Elmhurst are a major strength of the city and should be supported by the city. No more large parking garages. It is an eyesore.

Daytime parking downtown for a movie and lunch is impossible without going into a paying garage. We need a 4 hour window not 3 hour. Rush hour on York Rd is pretty congested. Don't know how to fix that. Could take 30 minutes North Ave & Butterfield. The sidewalk repair by drilling a hole and filling, does not work. Most of the concrete comes out of hole and no improvement. I'd rather just leave as is or replace as a whole.

1. Elmhurst schools particularly Lincoln is overcrowded and has classrooms exceeding state recommended number of students. I also understand the very limited budgets the schools are working with. Because funding is tied to property taxes and not impact like other fees, it seems like there should be an impact fee when families exceed a certain number of children in the schools unless they can establish financial hardship. If people can afford \$1M + homes they can also afford to subsidize additional burdens on the school system when they are sending three or more children to a school. I would also like to see special referendums to pay for costs associated with building new or improving schools. Elmhurst could be as good as New Trier, but needs more money for the schools. 2. The storm water system needs to be repaired and is one of the major concerns for potential buyers. 3. Vehicle stickers are cumbersome to buy unless they are renewals. If people must come in then you need weekend hours. 4. Elmhurst Police are awesome but I would like to see a greater presence in our neighborhood. Also need a stop sign for East/ West traffic at corner of Montrose and Fairfield- very dangerous. School located across the street. Focus on safety is important and cars travel dangerously fast without a stop sign.

We have been very happy living in Elmhurst. However, one big complaint we have is the commuter parking south of the tracks. There is only one garage south of the tracks and three (huge) garages north of the tracks. Parking is often difficult south of the tracks, which is made more difficult by the fact that a large number of the spaces are reserved for employee parking. The reserved spots are often filled, while the employee parking spots are never filled. With the number of parking garages north of the tracks, the employee spots should be moved to one of those garages. The people who live south of the tracks should have more spots available to them.

The height of new construction of building is too high! Any damage to property, when it is intentional or not - should require a police report. North Corridor should have more family or chain sit down restaurants. No more banks in Elmhurst. No need for all these banks.

It is disheartening to live in an area that floods so continually. At times, it seems an embarrassment to live in a city (that we love!) which appears in newspapers and on the news in all its flooded mess. It seems like years (and mayors) that we have been waiting for the City (and Park District) to get together on this. We continue to see our neighbors get "hit" on a regular basis - spring, summer and fall. It's hard to believe that our property values don't plummet, given the circumstances. We think that there are enough citizens in Elmhurst who are affected, and it is in everyone's best interest that the flooding problem is resolved.

Think that new houses should handle their own on lot storm water retention system. Don't agree with water retention above ground in parks and school yards. Advocate city education on rain barrels, porous pavements, rain gardens, etc. and tax incentives, matching grants, etc. Bicycle safety and licensing needs to be addressed. Rules of the road communicated - more education and awareness. Keep up the great parks and library - big pluses for the town.

- Signs at the main roads to the city (S York near Butterfield and St. Charles Rd near Fair) are not maintained or planted with plants and flowers. They are embarrassing. - I worry about the City's preparedness for deteriorating infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, bridges, sidewalks). I don't know what sort of reserves are available to address these issues. - Elmhurst needs to attract like Vie in Western Springs, Bakersfield in Westmont and other high quality establishments with good/well known chefs. - The City seems to have stopped maintaining street lighting and replacing light bulbs. I would estimate that 30% of city bulbs are burned out. Driving along Vallette I noticed over 10 light poles with lights burned out - for several months. - York Road north of North Avenue is a bit embarrassing. The quality of buildings and businesses is not high. - Police don't enforce stop signs. I live at the corner of May and Fair and people always roll through (most don't slow down at all). We've talked about it with the police and at the time when the police had their role call in our neighborhood. The response was "Be careful what you ask for". That seemed like a really poor response since it was the citizens of the neighborhood asking for it. I've seen no change in monitoring. It's not just this corner, but most stop signs in the city. - Please stop encouraging banks and nail salons into our city. Banks are a waste of retail space and do little to help with the economy. We need to attract businesses like restaurants (not fast food!), real bakeries (that sell bread, donuts, coffee cakes, decorated cakes, etc) and other stores with local products. - I would like to see more landscaped parts of the City. Areas that include interesting plants/bushes (low maintenance). I'm interested to see what the City does with the new stormwater detention area at Fair and St. Charles. - This may be the School District but I think the City should intervene. The lot along

Butterfield near Bryan that the school district uses to hold junk and piles of stone is an eye sore. This area needs to be improved.

I would be in favor of the bicycle infrastructure only if the plans for it were well thought, simple, and did not become a black hole sucking up \$.

2.16 Neighborhood patrons should be made on bike or foot, not the wheel of a car. 3.8 Many tree replacements are dead within a few months of planting 3.9 Aggressive pruning and removal have decimated the "canopied" streets of Elmhurst 3.14 Why can't we skip the expensive bags and stickers. Rake the leaves to the curb and pickup. 3.17 Sewers need to be cleaned and enlarged as more people, houses, and concrete arrive. 4.8 We live near York HS and the Courts. People speed through our neighborhood regularly. 4.9 & 4.11 Smart trailers with random police backup would be more effective. 10.4 While the Park District looks for ways to spend surplus, the schools cut back. I know the value of "tax bodies" but the money comes from us. Leadership is needed to put resources where they are needed most, not into silos.

The municipal tax needs to be removed. The high cost of all utilities is hard enough to pay and taxes have continued to increase. That tax was not intended to be permanent when it went through. Water costs are out of control. City needs to get the areas that flood fixed. Example - dig up Pine and Avon streets - fix the problem. The patch work on industrial drive is terrible, blacktop patches on cement is silly. Fix the road correctly. Replace it. It is time. Instead of all the apartment buildings why doesn't the town realize that we need to build at least 1 new school. Place some importance on that topic. Thank you. A lifelong resident who is trying to stay in Elmhurst.

What Bothers Me Most- City Workers- Not Working-Smoking- Hands in Pockets- Look Lazy- What a long Day- when you DO Nothing- Busy Day goes Fast.

Did not give any poor ratings. Little concerned with all the construction if it will affect flooding which has been a problem. Wonderful place to live with wonderful opportunities for all ages. Survey reminds me I need to try more cultural opportunities.

The street on Adams St. from York to Spring is swept 3 times a year. It is terrible especially in the fall when the leaves are heavy in the gutters. Yet Mitchell Street from Madison Street to Butterfield Road is constantly maintained. Yes, there is a school, Jackson, but why every other week and not Adams Street? I do not expect Adams Street to be swept that often, but PLEASE-- especially in the fall when the leaves are 2 feet deep in the gutter.

Not enough discounts for seniors, especially garbage, seniors usually have little garbage. Not happy with the wall of tall buildings surroundings the downtown. With all this construction will

we see more flooding? I had 9 feet of water in my house in 1987. In my present townhouse (lived in 18 years). I have never had any flooding. Also, it seems there are a lot more trains and why do they have to blow the whistle at 2 in the morning? It seems like the city gives out \$10,000 grants to new businesses and then a few years they close.

1. Too much density on new buildings, losing community charm, new bank on Palmer TOO close to street. Private housing needs to comply with overzealous zoning, while commercial building can be few feet from street. 2. Have utmost respect for police--but have always noticed teens especially not getting same respect from police as adults--sometimes borders on bullying. Other suburbs comment on it. 3. No more new retail space (over-priced) when downtown looks terrible with all vacancies--at least do different window dressing no vacant buildings. (That being said, Elmhurst is a great community--people are neighborly --schools great). 4. Retired adults cannot afford new housing options.

10.8 - Animal Control – Skunks. Any suggestions to improving skunk problem in Elmhurst. Last few summers, this has been an issue on the incline.

Please do NOT allow any more electronic signs. Especially ones on busier streets (like the underpass). The signs make the town look trashy and are a safety hazard to those driving.

Best city asset by far is the library. City gives away too much taxpayer money to private business interests. (Example-remodeling of car dealership but many others too) With the new parking garage, there is even more surplus parking availability in downtown. Multiple floors of the garage are empty during peak time-weekday lunch. The signage in the garage is terrible, especially for exiting - can't see it. Are contract paramedic services possibly a public safety concern? Many new development projects around downtown may cause traffic congestion once they're all built. It's already had especially late afternoons before any of the new buildings have been occupied. Still waiting for business development to go along with all the new residential so many closures & empty store fronts. City government operations might be rated more highly if the rules of the city were followed- for example the Downtown Plan, the one that already exists and not the one that may be (or will be- foregone conclusion?) approved later this year, also efforts to inform would be more effective if they were less biased and more believable -seems more like efforts to persuade residents to a particular point of view rather than to provide information (example lead story front porch spring 2016).

Stormwater problems will get worse but city is working on solutions--good! Need to get higher volume retail to offset property taxes. Schools excellent!

Police are too lenient with speeders. City should be finding ways to reduce taxes not just holding them steady.

I think the new parking garage downtown is great! When I take the Metra for work, it is usually after rush hour, and it would take me 15 minutes to drive around and find available parking. Now, I really appreciate there are so many new spaces in the garage, and that the garage is so centrally located. The new renovations at the Library are terrific, and we love the new programming and things like games you can check out. I feel like the Library is really trying to stay on the cutting edge of services. Courts Plus is also a staple of our daily lives - what a great resource the city provides. Hopefully there is a master plan for the downtown retail - seems like a lot of empty storefronts now. Other than that, we love our decision to have moved to Elmhurst - we are very proud to live here. Keep up the great work!

Union Pacific trains blow horns late at night and early morning. Such horn noise does nothing to improve safety and is totally unnecessary.

Enforcement of speed limits and traffic signs in residential areas is poor. Enforcement of disabled parking is poor. I sometimes have a great deal of difficulty walking in the Palmer Drive, Second St. area, drivers do not seem to know that a two legged person is a pedestrian. Distracted drivers are also a problem at stop signs.

A wider variety of retail in the City Center would be great to see. I also think bringing in a Trader Joe's would be great for the community. The Trolley Program was great. Would love to see it back, but maybe with a clearer schedule? It was not always running anywhere close to on time. Library services are awesome! Keep it up :) We visit once a week and are always pleased with the selection and variety of activities and resources.

I have lived in Elmhurst all my life and am now retired. I am barely able to stay in my house because of the high property taxes and yet am not able to relocate anywhere in Elmhurst due to the high cost of housing, owning or renting. I believe in progress, but I am beginning to think we should re-name the city "Brick and Concrete City". Seems the city is putting up more and more parking garages to lure neighboring towns to park here for their commute and leaving very little to no space for business, dining, etc. It would be nice to see some of our taxes decrease because of the money being brought in by these parking garages. Some of my negatives 1) one garbage can per house per week 2) snow removal is embarrassing around here 3) what happened to the good old days when yard waste and tree branches were picked up weekly for free? 4) my family chose Elmhurst a lifetime ago because they wanted to be away from all the parking and commuting in Chicago 5) other than spending tax dollars on making children's bike rides to & from school, we are all adults here and don't need to have you draw lines for where we can ride. Guess you can tell I am less than thrilled with Elmhurst as it is today - it no longer has the charm and beauty of the Elmhurst I grew up in.

The downtown development is destroying the feel of Elmhurst. There is no longer any character and it feels like an urban area instead of suburban. This may appeal to some people but does not appeal to me. I definitely do not plan on living in Elmhurst after retirement. I seldom visit downtown Elmhurst even though it is within walking distance. Previously I walked into town weekly, if not more often, but I no longer find a reason to do so.

The opportunity to increase housing density has me most concerned. The plans to increase building height and density of condos/rental units in the downtown area are most disconcerting. The image of Elmhurst, in my opinion, has always been single family homes (as a child growing up in Elmhurst, there were very few multi-family housing opportunities in Elmhurst). The traffic and congestion added in downtown Elmhurst would be terrible if the planned building on the northwest corner of First St. and Addison were to be allowed to deviate from the current zoning and building codes. I also think that the Addison parking garage is an eyesore to our downtown area. It is too tall and it is "out of place". While I understand the increased density of living units would allow more taxable living space, I feel that this is in contradiction to my opinion of Elmhurst's image. I feel that continued financial responsibility of our local government is the key to making Elmhurst, an affordable community in which to live. Traffic congestion is already the largest waste of my personal time when I travel through or around neighborhoods in Elmhurst. It often takes in excess of 30 minutes to travel from the north side of Elmhurst to the south side at peak traffic times. I understand that the implementation of egress paths into and out of Elmhurst are helping to insulate the town from surrounding traffic and crime but it also creates a "bottle neck" effect for residents to utilize city merchants (I do not have an answer for this issue, but I am concerned). School District 205 also has me concerned. The student population and control of it, has been questionable. I feel that the lack of discipline in our high school has been intolerable. I have personal knowledge of gang activity in the school and can no-longer recommend it as a "great" place to be educated. I no longer say "I went to that school and I think it is GREAT!" I now say "It has changed a lot since I went there". I believe school is a place that our children should feel safe and learn about how to think, not memorize information that can be found anywhere. I also feel (my children attended K-12) the influence of teacher "personal" ideals are a detriment to the ability of children to learn tolerance of all people. Another issue not made public is the problem of "out of district attendance". This should not be allowed to continue. Our tax dollars pay for the education of our district children, not those that do not live within the boundaries. The cooperation of government bodies is also an issue. The people of Elmhurst pay for everything in the end. Elected officials should put aside issues of control and work to benefit the citizens of this town. Use of Park District, City, and District 205 land, are all within the municipal boundaries of Elmhurst. Multiple uses for all land should be considered and implemented.

My evaluation of poor rating is Elmhurst's handling of flooding. New homes are built on postage size lots, contributing to the ongoing problem. There are funds for new parking garages--but not for eliminating the flooding dilemma. **Good to see some progress FINALLY this year--hope our block stays dry this year! (It is hard to have to worry about leaving your home in the spring & summer (worried about) flooding when you return.)

The downtown development feels like the character of the center part of town changing into an "urban wannabe" -- I don't like the idea of big 6+ story buildings right up on the sidewalks. From my perspective, development like this takes away from the neighborhood-y feel of Elmhurst. I like the development that is occurring on North York -- anything is better than tired car dealerships and dilapidated 1970's strip malls. Please keep up the work with the development up there.

Elected officials need to think of the city's future in its growth and density. Bigger isn't always better. We should focus on quality of what we put in downtown and other satellite business areas. What the city planners do in one business area they do in all the business areas and in some cases they are mistakes. Now that the hospital is moved to the south side of Elmhurst, the streets need to be restored to residential streets, stopping the cut through traffic avoiding the main arteries of our town. The bypasses going south off North Avenue and down Schiller Street are Haven, Willow and Berteau. There also must be better architecture in the down town redevelopment. The box (square) structure adds no value or draw from a strip mall. This cheap architecture has spilled over to the Spring Rd business area. Some towns that have added value to their architecture are; Naperville, LaGrange, or Hinsdale.

1) The most unappealing aesthetic aspect now here is the looming parking garage on Addison. It is quite attractive while driving on Addison or Park (although you don't really look at it when you are driving) but it is absolutely ugly when driving from the East side of town into Elmhurst. But if you take Schiller into town (anyone going in and out of Jewel for example) the all charm of Elmhurst is lost. It's a huge block of gray concrete. Why did no one put any thought into how this looked from the East? It reminds me of a cheap 1970s concrete apartment building in a low income college town. Please do something, anything, to improve the look from this angle. 2) I'm disappointed in how the city has failed to keep up the green space between the Nitti Development, 3rd, and Schiller. On both sides of sidewalk which borders the greenspace, for over 8 months there is rotting garbage, building debris, and other unmentionables. It looks like a garbage dump. Who is responsible for making sure all the crap, leaves and building debris that is flying around and into this area is cleaned up? 3) I do love Elmhurst and its amenities but can we please limit the amount of money we put into building new parks and playgrounds? It seems that Wilder Park gets a facelift/different equipment/etc. every year! We have an enormous amount of lovely parks for our children. I know the squeaky wheels are the parents

who want a bigger, better, and closer park to where they live but there needs to be some fiscal control here.

The police need to be aware of the traffic on Spring Road from Madison Street to Vallette Street. There is no stop sign from Madison to Vallette and NO ONE ever goes 25 mph. I see the police giving tickets down at Eldridge, but rarely, if ever, at this end of Spring Road. There are several children on this street in this area and it is an accident waiting to happen. Guess my question would be why aren't the police catching speeders in this area? I was a part of this survey years ago and asked the same question, but saw no results.

Our calls to Public Works regarding tree issues on our parkway were disregarded for multiple years until the past summer. Each spring we would call regarding a tree on our parkway which looked to be a possible Elm tree. It looked terrible and either 1) needed to be seriously trimmed due to the excessive number of dead branches or 2) given a total check for health as Dutch Elm Disease is prevalent in the town. One of the large branches that hung over the street was beginning to drop so low that we worried that after one of the massive storms that it would fall and crush a car or injure a person. The response time should not have taken multiple calls over multiple years. Yes, they are very busy in that office, but seriously, we expect a better response than years! Finally they came and trimmed it; the tree looks good. I do question when the last time this survey was written or edited as there were errors throughout. The format and quality of the paper copy is terrible and reminded me of bad copies of worksheets I received back in school in the 90s, so I went to complete it online. I had to laugh when I was prompted to answer the question, 9.2 "Do you use the Internet?" Seriously? I am on the computer completing this. I get that it is on the paper copy, but that does not mean it needs to be on the online version. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone under the age of 75 who is not on the internet daily. There was some point where you grouped fabrics and home goods together. Again, this is dated. In all the people I encounter in my day-to-day basis, I have never heard anyone talk about fabric and I would not group that with home goods. Yes, we have a wide range of ages in the town, but look at your demographics better when writing questions. This is definitely a recycled survey and attempts to update it were noticed at times (Facebook, Twitter, Trolly Service) but as a whole, it is extremely dated. With an online survey, once you answer no to a question, you should be able to skip all future questions on that topic. Once I answered no that I had never been to the Historical Museum in the last 12 months, I should not even have the choice to offer my opinion on issues related to the museum. But wait, I was prompted five questions later (7.12) if I had been to the museum. So if I forgot the first time, I could answer again now, right? Seriously, these are editing flaws that impact your data. Other questions are flawed in their response choices. Question 4.15 asks "For what purposes do you ride your bicycle." There is no choice for "I don't own a bike/ride a bicycle." Without having this as a choice, your data is flawed. People may feel the need to check a box, but there

is no box that represents their true feelings on the topic. Your 7.1 question regarding the library does not address that fact that some of us never set foot in the library but take care of everything online including checking out e-books. So how often do I visit the library? Are you talking virtually or in person? Finally, look at the final three questions (12.1-12.3) on this online survey. Your choices are not the same as the paper copy. All questions have choices (d,b,c,e). Where is A? So the online results have no opportunity to put in airplane noise as a problem or a concern. There were many areas where I did not have an opinion while completing this, but it does make me wonder if people can get the job done when looking at all of the problems that I found while completing this survey. Some would say that this is insignificant, but if something is worth doing, it is worth doing right.

If the streets are swept during the day, which I have noted when working from home, there is no reason to prohibit parking on the streets at night. I find it unnecessary for the dispatchers to be rude when calling in a car overnight and to argue with me over whether or not I should be parking on the street for one week. (My garage was being rebuilt and we could not use the driveway since it was also being redone.) Perhaps this is also something that could be done online anyway. Many sidewalks need to be replaced as they do not drain causing ice traps. Parking tickets for parking on the sidewalk when the city engineers would not allow us to move the garage and make a longer driveway are unreasonable, especially when the other neighbors did not receive citations. Additionally, the requirements for parking permits are cumbersome for minimal benefit. Parking limitations and regulations are the reason we are not considering Elmhurst when looking for a new home. We appreciate the DUI screening traffic stops. The city's trees are well maintained and we appreciate the sense of community. While the library renovations are gorgeous, very friendly to teens, and have excellent new services, it bothers me that it is so loud now and there are no longer quiet areas to work undisturbed. It has become a primarily social scene, so I must use another city's library when wanting a quiet experience.

More parking south of the Union Pacific tracks in the downtown area. Additional parking for both businesses and commuters. 99% of parking for downtown is north of the tracks. Also police enforcement of double parking and blocking of streets during evening commuter train passenger drop offs. Police seem to NOT patrol side streets overnight in southeast Elmhurst. Cars are left on the street overnight and are not checked. In my area a stolen truck was parked on the street before the police checked it. The "Taste of Elmhurst" should be brought back. It was a great advertisement for local businesses, bringing money into Elmhurst and showed Elmhurst pride. It also gives families from Elmhurst and outside something to do. Elmhurst needs (in town area) more diverse businesses besides banks and places to eat.

1. We hate being in a city with a strict zoning plan and then Aldermen give zoning variances that result in the downtown looking like a prison yard surrounded by giant concrete structures.

If our Aldermen were responsible we would want to vote them out of office, but it's not them, it's the other Aldermen who we suspect are getting a kickback from the developers or something. 2. We think there need to be many more activities for everyone downtown, especially teens. 3. It would be nice to have some sort of Summer Festival where we might see people we know. The Jaycees Carnival is not sufficient, and the lame Rock the Block Party does not get it done either. 4. Elmhurst needs more attractive retail downtown like there is in cities like LaGrange, Oak Park, Geneva, and Naperville. Not a revolving door of yogurt and ice cream shops. It would be nice to have some better cafes and diners. Maybe some VEGETARIAN food.

Losing a small town feel. Young families can't afford living in Elmhurst because of the housing prices. There have been only new huge houses built.

City support of real family support services where they are asking people to gather will be critical in maintaining a safe, sane environment. Accessibility of support systems where people gather and not relegating them to outside of the city center (including doctors though not large buildings of medical only-I walk to my eye Dr. and dentist) is important. Positive religious presence is also important to allow as you increase city density and encourage city center focus. Malls, for example, are places to find predators, etc. with no moral accountability visible. Also, Cool Cars became an unsafe environment; there was no positive focus, just a hangout focus. Trick or treating, though perhaps rushed for a retail encouragement, does put folks in a positive activity. For the record, my general impression of downtown Elmhurst is a pricey place, with no real value, you have to leave town to find a screw to fix your front door, which is regulated by code anyway, and neighbors might call you in for depreciating their value. (The toy store, violin shop, and the bank have been exceptions) I have seen several instances of well-meaning people end up causing a pain for their neighbors that isn't really needed, or telling a single mom she should put in a sidewalk when that really is the least of her concerns..."well to do" people implode without activity just as much as anyone else, and hopefully the city center can support itself and encourage their own people at the same time. Lastly, I did use a mobile device to answer the survey, and the 1-3 rating did not show up. I am hoping that any item moved from the default will register as my answer. City attitude is very professional, and when dealing on a personal level I find all city officials helpful. Thanks for all you do- some folks have bemoaned the lack of local civic involvement, but it can also be taken as a compliment that most folks don't think they could improve anything by showing up and confusing things...:-)

There's a lack of diversity in Elmhurst. It's saddening that Question 12.3 (i) presents demographics change as a possible problem. Diversity is good. If different demographics can afford to live in Elmhurst, then likely these are working people, contributing to society.

Although I checked taxes as a downside to living in Elmhurst, I understand that taxes pay for a safe community and quality schools. Yes, the taxes are high, but I'm purchasing a quality of life

that I don't want to diminish. I'm willing to pay more to maintain the public services, parks, library and schools.

Late night activities and congregation of minors in city centre seen as a dissatisfier for adults who want to walk and enjoy area. Also see renovations in city centre that happen too frequently when upgrades may not have been necessary. Seems like diverting funds away from areas that have greater need when market decreased in last 3-8 years. Need to increase responsible foot traffic with downtown shopping. Expect real estate taxes to go down with high number of new million dollar homes, along with condos and apartments downtown. Hope that apartments don't cheapen the area and bring in subsidized or lesser responsible individuals and/or families with amount of taxes I pay. Real estate taxes at or surpassing monthly mortgages is a shame. Makes me consider leaving the place we have called home for over 20 years. Don't think I can retire here at home based on rising costs. Neighbors feel the same way.

My garbage can (not Recycling) is always left in the middle of my driveway or is in the street when I get home. I also came home to find that the wheel axle had been pulled out of its plastic holder. I was able to fix it to make it work.

We need to take care of all the flooding problems before any more building. We need affordable 3 bedroom homes (small) so young adults who grew up here can afford to raise their families here. The central business district is already overcrowded and we have several empty store fronts. Get them rented before more building. The increased density will change the character of the neighborhood and Elmhurst in general. Traffic is already a problem how will you prevent it from getting worse?

I've lived in Elmhurst a long time. The community is changing so that only rich people will be able to afford it here. I fear young families won't settle here when first buying their homes then won't move in when they can. It's going to become a town with rich, old people. Too many huge homes being built.

Think I answered section 12 incorrectly but could not un-click options. Sorry about that. The continued expansion of new homes on the small lots is of concern. As I write this note, I look out my patio window and see my neighbor going into his refrigerator. I moved here to have a balance of community and privacy. If I wanted these close quarters, the city offers many options. I hope we do not lose our sense of neighborhood and community.

I love Elmhurst. We very much enjoy living here. It is a beautiful town. My concerns are my side of town floods. The sidewalks are tough for my kids to ride their bicycles at York and the uneasy feeling of being in the York/Butterfield area especially after dark.

Serious effort needs to be put into shortening this summary!!! City budget - can this not be a part of the "Front Porch"? Loss of green space due to homes oversized for their lots.

Need to improve timeliness of salt trucks and plowing on main streets and side streets. Always heading into Berkeley, streets are totally clean. Old hospital site should have been used for seniors who want to stay in Elmhurst over 55 perhaps.

Overall, the quality of life in Elmhurst is excellent. We enjoy the safe, family-oriented, strong community aspects of Elmhurst. One thing that is a MAJOR nuisance is the skunk population. It drastically limits our ability to go outside after sundown. We can barely allow our dogs out in the backyard without fear of being sprayed. Running/walking on the otherwise safe, clean streets is almost impossible in the evening hours. PLEASE, implement a plan to control the skunk population - it is completely out of control and a MAJOR downside to living in Elmhurst. Thank you!

I just had a friend move to Florida saying that the move saved him over \$12,000/year in taxes. While this is not entirely a problem caused by Elmhurst, need I say more?

Garbage pickup is frustrating with the bad attitude of garbage pickup drivers. The way they destroy garbage containers and Elmhurst City never changes out bad and destroyed cans.

Flooding is a big problem and needs to be addressed in a much more timely fashion than what is currently happening. Unfortunately climate change is real, and the intense storms we've been seeing in the last few years are NOT going to go away.

I think it's wonderful to see all the new building in the downtown area but I feel we are hurting our city by pricing commercial property so high. Many, many stores are empty due to this reason. Others only make it a short while because they can't keep up with rent. We will be filled with chain restaurants and stores soon because of this. Elmhurst is such a charming town and eclectic and one of a kind. Merchants should be filling out downtown.

60-30 minute parking downtown to help local merchants - stores. Discourage traffic as using Elmhurst as a thoroughfare.

No response will improve the quality of services. City needs better management, planning & zoning.

Parking convenience- Even with new garages, the walk to City Centre businesses is too far. Bikes- Bike travel in Elmhurst continues to be unsafe for bikers and auto drivers, mainly because bikers ignore the rules of the road. City storm water management- in a commercial company, the managers comparable to Elmhurst's leaders (Mayor, alderman, engineers, etc.) And park dept. and school dept. officials in office during the last ten years or so would have been

dismissed for their handling of Elmhurst's Flood controls. There has been much talk about flood control but damaging, embarrassing, and frustrating lack of meaningful ACTION. Lately, it seems that the Mayor is trying to generate more action, but the park and school departments are resisting doing anything meaningful flood control action, seemingly completely unconcerned about the owners of repeatedly flood damaged properties- nor of Elmhurst's well-being. In some circles Elmhurst has become known as "The flood city" as in flood-prone areas citizens are "bankrupted" as their qualities of life are decimated, as their property sale values are demolished, and as insurance companies drop them. Devastating situation!

Biggest complaint with this town is when the freight trains come through during rush hour. It messes up the whole downtown area where I live. Work with the freight train companies to block them from coming through during rush hour.

Very poor rating for dealing with ongoing flooding during heavy rain in our yard and on our street. Over 25 years it is now far worse than when we moved here. *This is in central part of Elmhurst--north of St. Charles, south of Marian, east of York. Not many choices for retirement/homes in Elmhurst after kids have left. We do not need \$800,000 townhomes with numerous steps.

The new pump station at Jackson and Saylor is a TREMENDOUS eye sore. I have literally seen housing subdivisions completed in less time than it is taking to complete this project and was incredibly disappointed to find out that it is entirely for sewer purposes and will do nothing for the HORRIBLE flooding problem at this same intersection. Elmhurst has ignored the residents around this area of the town for far too long and if I was in City government I would be embarrassed at the neglect of the citizens/taxpayers at the south end of Elmhurst, west of York Street. Also, there should be a STOP or YIELD sign at every intersection for at least one way of traffic (N-S or E-W). There is no sign at the intersection of Adams and Saylor and I have personally witnessed at least 5 near accidents in the past 12 months. For the safety of its citizens, the City should make sure there are no intersections in town (particularly residential intersections) that do not have signs for at least one way of traffic so that drivers know who should stop or yield. Elmhurst is mostly a great place to live but needs take better care of roads, particularly around the train station, bring more businesses to the town (particularly restaurants) and really focus on the flooding problem.

Widen the streets, first sidewalks, stop building close to the sidewalks. The Zoning Dept. is allowing overbuilding the land, which will add to congestion. Concerned about zoning. Majority of people parking downtown work there or spend money there or both. Small town feel in a metro area - keep it that way.

Taxes and cost of living are driving late 50's and early 60's residents to consider moving elsewhere to retire. I would love to retire where I was raised, but unless I downsize substantially, I will not realize that dream.

We are victims of overland storm water flooding, affecting our home and requiring fire department-assisted evacuation 4 out of the past 6 years. Each flood requires evacuation for 5-7 days and a very large out of pocket expense. We have a son who doesn't have a playroom because our basement is uninhabitable. If we were made aware of the flooding issues before moving, we would have chosen a different neighborhood or suburb all together. Please use all available resources, financial and otherwise, on fixing this issue. Avoid other costs such as trolleys, bike recreation and any other "amenities" until the storm water issues are resolved.

I will start by saying as a public safety employee; the professionalism of both your Police and Fire Departments is ALWAYS excellent. I live in the Astoria Place Townhomes and since the hospital has been completed the increase in traffic on Brush Hill is unavoidable. However, the rate at which these vehicles travel is always excessive and the police visibility is very rare. That may not be entirely a City of Elmhurst concern; however, since the Astoria Place Townhome Association has permitted owners to rent their units there has been an increase in loud noise/parties in the complex and the overall appearance of the homes has declined. Does the City of Elmhurst have a Nuisance Property Ordinance? Again your PD and FD should be commended for their professionalism.

County assessor is out of touch with property values and retirees will have to move. Downtown is looking more like Oak Park - use to be a nice little town - past businesses pushed out. Biking is dangerous with all construction, traffic congestion from North Ave. moving to side street. Police could do more.

There seems to be a very large population of squirrels in the neighborhoods causing a lot of damage to property. The city should look into ways to curb or thin out the squirrel population.

Storm water management continues to be a problem (i.e., sanitary sewer overflow) with frequent hard rains. I find the downtown areas of Wheaton & Glen Ellyn much more fun to visit than Elmhurst. The Stores are fun, reasonable, and appropriate for all ages. Most of Elmhurst clothing stores are geared to young & tend to be pricey. There's a variety of stores - not all restaurants, wine-tasting, but useful stores & a wide variety of kinds (clothing, decorating, bookstores, tea shops, kitchen specialty stores, children's clothing).

Please fix Surf and Olive Street - needs curb and gutters and road resurfacing. Road is in very bad condition. North of Prairie Path and south of St. Charles.

My responses for the ranking of my least favorite things in Elmhurst is wrong on the items ranked #3. The survey wouldn't let me change it. My biggest concern (and my husband's) is the vast amount of vacant retail space in Elmhurst and, with the building of more, I'm very concerned. I work in LaGrange and their downtown is much nicer and they are a smaller community. They have virtually no vacant spots. Elmhurst on the other hand, has a downtown area that seems to be in a recession. It's quite upsetting. Can we get a Trader Joe's downtown? Can we get more variety in dining and shopping? We actually drive to Lagrange or Oakbrook or Downers Grove or Wheaton downtowns to shop and dine as there's not much going on in downtown Elmhurst. The vacancy rate has to be hurting the tax money that our schools get as well.

The north side of Elmhurst has no residential sidewalks. This is a safety hazard as people walk in the streets instead. All city streets should have sidewalks for the protection of all the people, both drivers and walkers. The north side also has too many uncontrolled intersections. People speed in this area and it can be dangerous. Way too many accidents for residential neighborhoods. Paying for yard waste stickers is unfair. This should be a free service.

Response for Other issue from 12.3: Downtown plan on 6 stories ill conceived. Not Necessary. 25 mph not realistic. Parking in City Centre not patrolled. Some lights are poorly timed so traffic is bad.

Elmhurst has been our home for 48 years, and we've seen many changes during that time. I really appreciate the dedication of our local alderman, Scott Levin. However, lately I've been feeling that city officials are more interested in filling just about every open space within the city with residential or commercial buildings, or parking garages. It's time to stop and smell the roses. Take care of the many diverse developments we already have. Maintain the open spaces. Treasure the greenery. Make the quality of life a priority.

Teach your young officers how to speak and serve to protect us, not hassle your community residents.

I have a family of five and usually have one or two bags of garbage a week the rest is recyclable. Raising cost for refuse seems inflationary only. My biggest concern is with our yard waste refuse. Twice a year we get break but the cost per bag on yard waste is outrageous. In addition to the fact this waste is all compost-able. It should not cost this much to get rid of our yard waste.

Re: Section 6 I purchased a permit to build a 6ft fence to the alley. Having a 3 ft in place when I purchased the home I specifically asked if 6ft to the alley was okay to which staff said absolutely. When ready to erect the fence I called and asked again and again and was told yes, no problem. After it was built a neighbor complained. Staff kindly asked if I would consider

scaling it back. I said no. This was followed by a few back and forths to which I perceived to be questionable and legal was brought up (by the city). The inspector came but she never passed the inspection or said otherwise. I found this whole situation suspect since several others have similar fences along North Ave. I wonder what this pick and choose who can have what is based on. I was treated poorly and I wonder why.

Mosquitos were rampant last summer. Was told I must be dreaming when I phoned expressing concerns over new building and flooding. All new apartments and condos too costly for retirees.

Drivers rarely ever yield at Yield signs. I live near Marion and Lawndale and a car did not yield and hit my car. This happened a few years ago, but to this day I have to stop, even though I have the right away, because the drivers on Marion seldom yield. I strongly suggest that a Stop sign should replace the Yield sign. (Note: There are several children that play in that area and I fear for their safety).

We recently went to a movie on a Saturday evening; we were surprised and a little uneasy about the number of kids "hanging" out around the City Centre fountain. They were loud, obnoxious, and deterred us from enjoying sitting in the area for a bit. We wondered why there wasn't more of a police presence in the area so that the people who actually pay their taxes could enjoy their town. The selection of incoming businesses seems to be off. How many banks and yogurt shops does one town need? It seems as if we can't attract or keep business that can activity bring some value to our town. Overall, we feel Elmhurst is a great town to live in, but definitely feel some changes could/need to be made to maintain its "great" status.

Double counting on charts by including interfund transfers is misleading. Too many violations relating to allowing silt/snow fences down. Sloppy walkways/hazards except Schiller underpass. Nitti is sloppy and disregards stormwater issues during construction management.

I don't have any poor ratings as it pertains to services offered, etc. Other than the challenging zoning requirements and the pay for yard waste model- I don't have any issues with the services provided. My concern is with the continued lack of progress with the downtown area. In my opinion, the retail that currently exists doesn't resonate with the new Elmhurst Family. The dining situation is slightly better. I think there would be a lot of support for a vibrant downtown area with moderately priced clothing retailers (GAP etc.) I also think that an opportunity was missed when developing the new parking garage and the giant condo building in my opinion that space would have been void to put in an open air market or something that the current residents can benefit from. I am sure that the condo tower will only make traffic worse. We should also be looking to put big box retail north of 290 on York to keep tax revenues from leaving Elmhurst.

I would really like to see more diverse business in the City Centre. It seems like the same type of business opens in multiple places, driving out ones that have been there and/or each other and then the store fronts are vacant again, i.e. all the yogurt places drove out Jamba Juice, then each other. Now there are many fitness studios opening, bank branches, manicure/ pedicure, and hair salon... Affordable, family friendly businesses please! Businesses should be recruited or encouraged and then an effort should be made to support that business and not open competing businesses to protect those new businesses. If we are seen as a place that supports small businesses, more will be encouraged and there won't be so many empty store fronts. There are a lot now and Elmhurst is opening more? I'm also concerned about housing replacement. The \$300-400,000 homes are being replaced with giant homes and pricing out families that have been living here for generations. Mixed price development should be encouraged. The last thing I'd like to see encouraged is more industry that could support schools so we can rely less on homeowner's property taxes. I greatly appreciate being asked for our feedback! Thank you so much!! I also greatly appreciate the efforts being made to develop long vacant properties in Elmhurst. THANK YOU!

Now that everything is through "internet" or "email" please note some people are unable to do things "electronically"

The three areas I notated were sidewalks, infrastructure, and City Centre improvements. Many of the neighborhood sidewalks are in disrepair. The sidewalks that are cracked, lifted, and terribly damaged are temporarily repaired with blacktop. Some of these sidewalks pose a risk and all are unsightly. I am aware of the 50/50 sidewalk program, but I also realize that many residents may be on fixed incomes or are unable or unwilling to share in the cost of these repairs. The infrastructure in Elmhurst is very old and the stormwater problem that exists today is only going to get worse if we do not replace more infrastructure in a timely manner. We should not have a stormwater crisis in 2016. The piecemeal approach of digging holes in our parks to help a minimal number of homes is only a stopgap measure. I would hope to see a plan for completed infrastructure refurbishment over an extended period of time. I personally do not believe that parking decks & apartments will make a vital and active City Centre. I think it is very difficult to compete with Oak Brook Mall and the only way to do that is with a balance of beauty, culture, and open green spaces in the downtown area. The downtown plan that included pocket parks and meeting places had much more potential for bringing our community and others to our downtown area. Since the City Centre is filled with cement, I don't believe it is a bigger draw than Oak Brook Mall. I don't believe the old adage "Build it and they will come." I believe a more successful approach would be beautiful green open spaces, outdoor cafes, and pedestrian & bike friendly downtown. A town that distinguishes itself from the rest, Winter Park, FL is a great example of a vital and exciting downtown.

I am a frequent user of the Prairie Path, and I am dismayed by the appallingly poor condition of the path in Elmhurst. It is in immediate need of resurfacing to improve walkability/bikeability and to improve drainage. It seems to me that the maintenance in other suburbs (Villa Park, Wheaton) is superior to that in Elmhurst. I would be interested in knowing what the plans are for Prairie Path maintenance this year and in the future. Also, I have witnessed the decline of the mature trees on the parkways over the past 39 years. There is no pro-active program in place to plant young trees in anticipation of the loss of mature trees. Instead, we wait for trees to be removed and then replace them with small seedlings only if vast amounts of empty space exist between adjacent trees. There are too many ornamental trees being planted (I recall the fiasco of the Bradford Pears, none of which were able to survive our climate), and not enough big shade trees (maples, oaks, disease resistant elms, etc.). As a homeowner, I was prevented from spending my own money to plant trees on my parkway because the city deemed that they would be too close together. So now I have 2 tiny twigs where I once had 3 magnificent elms. Elmhurst is a great place to live; let's have a major initiative to once again justify the name of "Tree City". And don't worry so much about the museums in Elmhurst; if I want to go to a great museum, I go into the city (Chicago). Feel free to contact me at the email shown below.

Taxes are pretty high but services are quite good overall. Would like to see a good book store in town. Would like to see a good outdoor music arena of some kind. Would like to see more pedestrian underpasses beneath the railroad tracks to connect foot traffic on both sides of the tracks. Very expensive, I know, but could be efficient. Love being so close to O'Hare, Oak Brook shopping Center, etc. I shop in Elmhurst a lot too. House prices here reflect a desirable community.

Parkway tree maint. See Olive + Rex S.W. Corner (tree swing + steps?) West + Olive- empty lot is a dump! Traffic + Transportation- I can't find parking downtown (maybe the deck) Police only slow for stop signs, make right on red without stopping West + St Charles is a disaster! People making right turns into left lane from south bound West Ave. or entering Chase Bank Lot at the north end turning left onto West Ave even if there is a " No Left Turn" sign. Or going straight on south bound West Ave. from the right turn lane, making right turns on Scott St. From St. Charles during restricted times, speeding past Ben Allison Park, not stopping at the stop sign at the park (Ben Allison), The shopping center on the south side of St. Charles and West Ave. pushes their snow onto city streets making them narrow! The south side of West Ave. at St. Charles needs to be striped for two lanes as many think it is three lanes like the North side (there needs to be a double yellow lines) The older residents that have raised their families are being taxed out of Elmhurst the city their taxes built.

Property taxes are too high. They don't represent the decrease in property values. It's not right.

We like Elmhurst and want the community to grow and succeed. We originally moved to Elmhurst for the school district, vibrant downtown and nice location. The goal is to continue the good schools, develop a downtown with good diverse business. Restaurants, bars, shops, etc. Many of the business that seemed to no longer be around were duplicates of other business models (ice cream, couture clothing, etc.) Overall, we love Elmhurst and we continue to want it to succeed. We miss cool cars night... why was that taken away w/ no explanation. We also love the variety LaGrange has to offer. Great downtown that is continuing to grow & get better.

Overall, Elmhurst is a very solid suburb, and is well-run. But the evolution demographics driven by the McMansion syndrome is sad. In allowing the houses that just don't fit has degraded the curb appeal of the community, and is starting to drive out the quality of the community.

Affluence is not all good. The neighborly feel of 20 years ago is eroding. For the people who came to Elmhurst when it was affordable, many leave once kids are out of schools. With more of the over-sized houses that just don't fit on the lots, we have become less family oriented; kids are more into drugs as an off-shoot. We need families, with moms, not nannies. In short, not everyone feels quality of life is better just because there is more money in town. While we are not personally highly affected by the flooding issues, we know many who are, and of course the super-size housing and inner-city sized yards are a contributor. My spouse and I used to think we'd stay here our whole lives, now we are planning where we will move to after kids finish school.

I think it is hard for the city to handle opinions and suggestions different from theirs. It always has been and I believe it still is and maybe more intensely.

One of my dislikes is the cost of the water/sewer/garbage pickup costs. There is a heroin issue at York. Taxes are very high.

Very disappointed in the Park District regarding flooding. City trying to help. Park District should get on board.

I have lived in Elmhurst for 11 years. During that time the value of my property has gone down approximately 5%, my property taxes have increased 60%. I see this as unsustainable. Once my children have left York High School, it will be difficult to stay in Elmhurst and we will reluctantly look to move elsewhere. The Police department is excellent. The Library is excellent.

Need better shopping options like Trader Joe's, Binney's, Small clothing retailers like Talbots, Ann Taylor, Jos Banks, GAP, Express, and more restaurants like PF Chang, Cozymel, Outback Steakhouse, Chilli's, TGIF, Panda Express, Ginos East, Lou Malnati's (sit down). Need friendlier police and more reasonable - can you believe they gave my 20 year old daughter a ticket for turning on to the street she lives? First ticket in her life. She was devastated. You need to go out

and market our downtown to these retail outlets and restaurants. Big city hall (expensive) and too many police.

Less affluent areas need more attention from police re: number and patrols in outer areas. And more attention put to areas where drivers speed, blow stop signs, and blast music, etc., etc. Flooding must be controlled and limits to new jumbo homes. Not lot line to lot line. Ridiculous and water drainage issue. Flooding- Duh!

Love our library. The people working there & the service provided are outstanding. Beautiful building in a wonderful park. New Parking Deck/Building on Addison walk to town from the East & it looks like a big concrete EYESORE! Doesn't look nice from the east- other sides look much better. TRAIN NOISE- AWFUL- Loud horns *at 4 am the loud banging noises start, wakes our family regularly & we are a block away. Airplane noise!! Hate it please keep our community gardens!! Love Golden Meadows.

I rated traffic speed compliance as poor because on a daily basis, I witness numerous incidents of speeding rolling through stop signs and blatant texting or use of phones in hand. Twice vehicles have strayed into my lane and nearly ended up in a head on collision but this was avoided by using my horn. This is also particularly dangerous to people on bikes. Traffic compliance has become a real problem in my area! Unfortunately my home has been the victim of sewer back-up in the basement multiple times. My once lovely finished basement has been destroyed. Although I am glad the city is finally doing something about this. I have had 3 trees in my parkway removed. The yard is no longer flat where one tree was removed; instead the earth is raised in a small one moved. This makes mowing difficult. I would suggest that the earth be leveled cut after tree removal. Refuse collection-in my opinion the trash can is too large. I have one small grocery size bag of trash per week. I realize larger households have larger trash needs but there should be lower cost options for these with a smaller foot print. This would also promote recycling. Overall quality of life is very good in Elmhurst. I grew up here and then returned to raise my daughter here. It's a great community.

Hard to get kids into programs - needs better access/bigger. Kids' population is growing, I live on North Avenue. Not much the City can do since it's a State road but our sidewalks are falling apart. My neighbor floods a lot when it rains. People throw garbage in my yard. I'm the one who chose to live here, so I don't blame the City for that but if there was some sort of facelift, at least to the sidewalks, it may improve the overall appearance to Elmhurst's busiest street. Overall, the Police do a good job of speed control. I wish there were less trucks too. A chain is as strong as its weakest link! Downtown is nice but dining is not diverse enough in my opinion. People move here from the City and want a vibrant downtown experience. The flooding in Elmhurst has been a problem. When we first moved here, the housing was more eclectic. Over the past 5 years, there's obviously been a lot of new construction. To me, the streets are

starting to look cookie cutter, with essentially the same house or some variation of it being built. Our power goes out in my neighborhood often I think the city does a good job overall.

Elmhurst does a good job with shopping options at 83/St. Charles and downtown but needs to improve the retail climate of the York/Butterfield shopping area. I do not like Jewel, gas there is overpriced, only 1 restaurant I like over there (Bambu). Many vacancies and dilapidated shops there. Police run speed traps on roads like 83 and York where they can hit their quota easily and where there is no residential safety problem, and run too much parking enforcement, but are not effective in fighting theft rings hitting our city or enforcing the rules of the road in my neighborhood. City needs to make residential overnight street parking easier when we have guests, calling the police and answering 20 questions every time is a hassle and they are always extremely rude. (No driveways on my street only alley). Hospital relocation has caused a lot of ambulance siren noise in my area. At 1 AM when no cars are on the street the ambulances can give the siren a rest. The library is good but the \$200/year I pay for it seems awfully high. Is anybody trying to control the spending and costs there? The power goes out a lot in Elmhurst. The city needs to put pressure on ComEd to improve maintenance and outage response times. Elmhurst does not have a good selection of internet providers. Please bring Google Fiber or municipal fiber optic broadband service to homes in Elmhurst. Comcast is abusing its monopoly and gouging the price, and AT&T only offers slow DSL. I wish North Ave. at 83 looked as nice as the rest of the city. Electronics waste ban was enacted without a reliable way to dispose of electronics. Driving to Addison on a specific Saturday morning is a hassle. Why not have a bin at the EPW on Riverside. I would like to be able to auto pay the water bill with my credit card instead of punching the account number in every month (the "save this card" checkbox has never worked). Begin replacing street lamps with dimmer and lower energy LEDs as they come due for replacement. Elmhurst has a lot of light pollution.

It would be great if there were either later weekday hours for payment of bills and city sticker purchases. Not all of us work locally and short of having to take uncompensated time from work to take care of something that could be easily fixed with a simple schedule tweaking.

Elmhurst identity should be different than surrounding communities using cultural values such as symphony orchestra, college environment, library and cultural events. The biggest challenge is the integration of a diverse population so that the unique quality of the city remains and grows. Not all of the downtown should be restaurants. The business environment should be friendly and conducive to attracting new businesses besides dining. This should include programs so business employees don't have to move their cars several times a day to prevent getting parking tickets. Businesses that have several employees should be able to buy parking passes as a business not as individuals so that the businesses can accommodate their employees. What is the long range plan for the area north of North Avenue?

The 25 MPH is not enforced. I realize that it becomes a matter of priorities and the police must, and do use the resources available in a responsible manner. I view the 25 MPH speed limit as only a suggestion. Likewise speed limit enforcement in School Zones, 20 MPH, is treated as only a suggestion; I have been passed while children were present and going 20 MPH in front of Sandburg Middle School. Traffic never slows in front of Visitation. York H.S. when will the next student be killed? If you are a thrill seeker, be around Bryan Middle School during dismissal and watch the mothers drive away, on their cell phone and treating stop signs as a suggestion. Better yet watch the driving in the neighborhoods as people return home from work on Friday 4-6 P.M. Another place that needs to be watched by traffic enforcement is North Ave., I feel it should be enforced for the benefit of those who live along the street; I have never seen a stop for anything on North Ave. Bike Homes as Chicago is trying to do would be a good idea. We need a way to go from the south side of town to the north with some protection. Have you ever tried to bike to North and 83; it can't be done in a safe manner.

For the taxes we have to pay, it simply is not worth it anymore to live in Elmhurst. The City Centre is a joke. It is a literal ghost town with vacant buildings and stores boarded up. However, we have numerous high-rise parking garages so you can park to go to the stores that don't exist! City officials should take a stroll through Hinsdale or LaGrange to see their City Centres. Maybe you might learn something.

Not enough handicap parking in Elmhurst downtown on street level. I would shop more in downtown Elmhurst if there was more handicap parking on street level, there is only one spot by Starbucks coffee.

Continue to work to solve the storm water management issue in all neighborhoods not just the easiest to solve ones where there is a big property to dump the water at.

We have lived in Elmhurst for 27 years. What bothers us now is: 1) Public schools have always been in a flux and very poorly managed. Too much political crap & board has their head in the sand. 2) Ex-alderman Susan Rose of Building/Zoning was recently quoted in reference to the apartment complex on York and the one being considered 1st/Addison: "This is the community we want." This comment really disturbs. It is not the community we want. It's what you want. Elmhurst does not have the infrastructure to support 350+ apartments in the downtown area. It simply does not. We'll see what happens.

Housing for retirees: lack of affordable senior/retiree townhouses. This townhouse issue of supply will cause unnecessary relocation out of Elmhurst. Alternative is one level condos. Stormwater management/flooding - it took years too long to develop new housing coding to prevent basement flooding! Lack of foresight of planning 10 years ago has caused current areas of flooding. Current School and Park District inactions to cooperate with Mayor Morley and city

management is unacceptable. See local newspaper articles week of 4/13, for example. Taxpayers will be clearly frustrated. Those taxpayers bear brunt of flooding, remediation expense (ex. overheard installation, ground water irrigation expense in backyards to areas near street to carry avoid flooding? and this will continue. Property taxes: escalating property

1. Worried about safety 2. Higher taxes do not correspond with better services at school 3. Convert the green space at the end of Elmhurst St. by the cul de sac into a park for kids. (Between Elmhurst and 3rd by Enroy) (We need traffic here!) 4. Stop new development and cookie cutter houses. It's changing the landscape of the charming town this was.

Some of my concerns relate to walking a small dog before sunrise and late at night. There are coyotes seen here often. Tax money seems to be wasted on consultants. Zoning board doesn't take flooding into account. The city needs a wise policy to keep water in the land.

I have only lived in Elmhurst for about 4 months so my opinions aren't based off very much experience.

I have learned from living in Elmhurst, some 30+ years, it doesn't matter what the residents opinions are. City officials do what they want when they want with little to no consideration of the people who live here (flooding, building, & uprooting old business). I find this town to be overrun with snobs (nothing you can do about that). When looking into selling our home, we were appalled to learn that there is a "leaving Elmhurst fee" that is absolutely abhorrent.

Some roads have pronounced alligatoring. I hope impact fees for new construction are high enough and compensate for the damage done when streets are excavated and "repaired". Survey (gizmo) site doesn't work!

I am a 71 year old retired RN. (I work part-time "in home" job in Hinsdale as an RN). I have lived in Elmhurst for 43 years and have had the luxury of my 2 children go through the District 205 school system in the 70's and 80's. I own my home but I have to move soon because of my taxes. I am on a fixed income. I really would prefer to stay here but it seems that will be impossible by next year at this time. I need to downsize and move way out of the western suburbs. I have savings, but I may live for 20 more years. I need to be more realistic. I am grateful for what I have. (I hope I don't seem like a complaining old woman). I do have lots of good memories living in Elmhurst. I still love my special neighbors.

The worst thing the city has done is build the world's ugliest building on Hahn St. What and who was behind this hideous design. Do we really need 500 units a horrible looking--all window brick building-- We have NO decent retail in this town-- I shop in Downers, LaGrange and Naperville because they have real retail that I would rather support-- I grew up with Ruby's, Chipains, Honey Girl--we had a great downtown. You at the city keep adding high rise

and high rents--pushing out the old school tenants--it's sad! If my parents did not live here I would no longer reside here-- You can't even pick up a prescription at Walgreens--no parking— It's sad what this town has become--really and truly--focus on retail not condos and apartments!

Poor ratings: 1.5 Not retirement community (A) intolerant attitude on new residents for older citizens (B) excessive real estate taxes to support schools which have declining educational results. 2.16 2.17 4.4 4.8 4.9 Little police visibility to cure speeding and scofflaws of traffic lights and signs. Bicyclists do not obey stop lights or signs, ride between cars, ride on sidewalks, do not signal turns and cross the tracks going south on York in downtown Elmhurst. Tighter building code enforcement, inspection, or changes may curb the excessive paving of residential backyards which prevents rainwater absorption.

Building code enforcement and stormwater mgt. I lived in this home for 20 years with not even a puddle in back yard. A young couple bought the home next door and added a large addition with a basement. The soil from the excavation was used to raise the rear yard 20 to 24. I called the city. They said they can't do that, but failed to stop them. Some years later the neighbor on the other side installed an in-ground swimming pool. The pool is 2 feet above ground. I called the city and the city sent out 2 young men who told me that they were engineers. They refused to stop the workers from raising the yard. I asked for a storm drain and was told the co-pay program was on hold. I have had to pump my yard to prevent water from entering my rear basement windows. How can I sell this home under current conditions?

This is not a city complaint but I believe it is a community neighborhood complaint. My neighbor always has their 4 grandchildren visiting all the time especially in the nice weather. They are always outside in the yard and all they do is make a lot of noise the whole time they are here. They yell and scream at the top of their lungs and constantly playing noisy games with balls and throwing them at our fence or kicking the balls against the fence. But the main problem is that the noise level is way out of control. They also play in their grandparents' car and are in and out slamming doors and beeping the horn. We have talked to them and asked them to please have them stop making so much noise and they told us that kids will be kids and that they were not going to correct them or top. Sometimes on Sundays which is when they are here every week all day we have to leave our house just to get some peace. Then in the fall during the whole season they have 3 televisions on outside in the garage and yell awfully with all they have for their neighbors and have to realize they are not the only people that live here. In fact we are now thinking of moving just to get away from the noise. We have medical problems and can't rest because of all the noise. We hope someone can solve our problem. We can't continue to live with all this noise anymore. The only time it is quiet is when they go away on vacation. Thank you.

Please reconsider the building codes. There are too many very large houses on small lots in my neighborhood (Cherry Farm). We have lived in this house for 32 years and had no flooding or sewer back-up problems for the first 15 years, except for the flood of 1987. Now we are surrounded by large homes and my street and my yard routinely flood. We have had 3 instances of sewage back-up in the last 8 years. May Street, between Arlington and Kenilworth, which abuts my property, routinely becomes a lake if there is even an inch of rain, then the water starts to run through my yard, into my husband's garage and down to South Street. The two storm drains cannot handle the water, and in fact one of them bubbles up like a volcano due to the yard drains connected to it. We have never had a sump pump...our house was built in 1926. Our basement is finished and I really do not want to rip the whole thing up to install overhead sewers. Please also reconsider allowing front loading garages, which are ugly and make the front yards even smaller, allowing even less green space. The development at the old hospital site is an aesthetic abomination. The houses are too large and too close together. Whoever approved that sub-division should be forced to live across the street from it and look at it every day. What a mis-use of a beautiful property!

The questions in section 12 of the survey limit the options without that ability to write in other elements the residents can like/ dislike. For example, train noise is not as big an issue and trains blocking the roads, however there is no option to communicate. Hands down the biggest issue facing Elmhurst, and one that has been neglected to be included in the survey- the manner in which developers are allowed to dictate the commercial and residential planning for our city. \$15M of taxpayer money for a 6 story eyesore that was forced upon the citizens to create a precedent for more 6 story structures is fiscally irresponsible, when in reality a parking structure within the existing building code would have been sufficient. These larger structures detract from the charm our downtown once had, as other cities like LaGrange, Hinsdale, and Glen Ellyn avoid making the same mistake and retain their character. All the more ironic as the city spends more money to hire consultants and create facades for downtown rather than address the bigger issue of vacant retail space. Meanwhile the residential builders are allowed to violate building codes for the lots they buy in order to create oversized McMansions that detract from the character of the neighborhoods. Elmhurst College, the library, and museums contribute tremendously to the heart of our city. Municipal services are well run.

Why did you feel the need for another parking garage, what kind of return can there be for the taxpayer. Buildings are getting bigger and bigger and we lost that small town feeling. Home builders can block streets with their trucks park the wrong way ruin our streets. When they patch them and black top sinks. How many times must we pay for new streets? Gas stations - Whole Foods - KMart are losers. Bring something that will ease the tax burden. City Hall should manage our tax dollars better. If I were younger I would form a city watch to see how you waste tax dollars on many things. I may not be here to see it but one day you will wake up and

see you got too big, too fast. Quit looking through those rose color glasses. You may see what we see. When we let new places into our city we give them the shirts off our back so they can get rich. As it stands, my grandchildren's - grand kids won't see the benefit of your deals. Do the police patrol the North side of Elmhurst? Cars are parked on the street all night and never get a tickets, not sure how that works and really don't care. Soon we will look like Chicago with these big buildings and homes and ask ourselves where did we go wrong and what happened to our family home of Elmhurst. Great job you people think you're doing.

We have lived in Elmhurst for almost 3 years and so far it has been great. There are a few things that need improvement but what town doesn't. Our biggest concern is the drug situation that occurs with York H.S and possibly near the train station. Something must be done. There have been way too many deaths in the past few years. We also believe Elmhurst residents pay enough/a lot in taxes. They should remain the same or decrease. Hopefully they won't increase.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write some feedback. First, I love living in Elmhurst. We love the neighborhood as well as downtown area, library, and Courts Plus. It has gotten a little more expensive recently and harder to keep the standard but it seems that this is happening in other areas as well. Here are some suggestions: - I think that we need to build businesses to bring traffic to Elmhurst. For example, arena for sports around Mariano's (as in Hillside, there is Grasshoppers) to bring more sport events and this more traffic to downtown Elmhurst) -We need more condo building and more affordable for older people when they want to downsize -Significant number of towns in DuPage county are building Paddle Courts which allows for winter outside exercise (Riverforest, Glen Ellyn, Wheaton). City is rebuilding same play grounds that are in good shape but not building such courts. They can be built next to Plunkett Park, next to Courts Plus. -The city allowed for three Yogurt stores to be open in close proximity on York Street and one of the owners was forced to go out of business. Why not build one in the area of Rt.83 and St. Charles? -There is not enough inside tennis courts for Juniors in Courts Plus. Many permanent tennis court times are purchased by non-residents and you can't call and reserve a court most of the time. Juniors should be able to come and practice any time. Perhaps the non-resident price should be much higher. Also, how about building a tennis bubble in Berens Park for Juniors? - Schools: I love the 205 music program.

Replacement of trees - very poor. There is still a tree missing on our parkway over 2 years. Please consider a sports complex for community indoor soccer and basketball. Please consider a Lifetime Fitness. Please consider healthy fast food options - Freshii, Roti, Protein Bar. Please consider better dining choices - family brew pub, trendy restaurants. La Grange has many more dining options.

I always forget to get my pet license, any chance you could send out a reminder. Think property tax is unfair. We live in a smaller house and pay more than neighbors with bigger

newer homes. Luckily it was reduced this year, but not enough. Still our home is valued by you for more than we bought it for in 2014.

Overall I love living in Elmhurst - grew up here and moved back when my husband and I bought our home and couldn't imagine living in any other town. A couple of suggestions: -I would love the opportunity to set up autopay for utilities online. We have lived here for a year now and haven't had an opportunity to get to city hall and set up autopay yet. It would be easier if we could do this online. -Also on that note, the website has necessary information, but seems outdated and difficult to navigate on tablets and smartphones. There's research about who is accessing the internet from what type of device and I'm sure we're all aware that smartphones and tablets are on the rise - unless I'm at work that is all I use to get online. -I know there were complaints about the Christmas lights not going up in downtown this year and so they were put up, but after Jan 15th, even if you're not going to take them down, just turn them off. Seeing Christmas lights on in March on a house is not okay, let alone on city's property. (Plus - save some electricity) -Snow removal overall is good. It might be a good idea to review traffic patterns to decide what streets to clean first. Grace Street is a tiny street, but there is actually a lot of traffic, even on the dead end because people use it as a cut through from Hagans and Elm Park. -One of my main concerns is the aging population of Elmhurst. Because of property values, it is difficult for younger families to move into town. I know part of the downtown plan was more multifamily housing. This would be huge for allowing entry into Elmhurst for younger families as well as the aging population who are downsizing because of empty nesting or because they can't take care of their house. I really think more condominium buildings will attract more people to Elmhurst and retain some of the aging population.

We are not the city built around a giant parking garage. Wow, is that tall! Why so many empty retail spots downtown?

With \$1 million homes replacing \$200,000 to \$300,000 homes, why do the taxes continue to increase?! Why aren't smaller refuse containers available (with a smaller charge)? Usually I have one bag of garbage (this is true for many of many neighbors) per week.

9.11 - f. Not at all - *did not have channel info, will watch now! I fervently wish the building of condos and apartment buildings would cease. We are fast losing the suburban charm of Elmhurst and becoming the traffic nightmare of the City.

I've lived here for 32 years and I have always wished that there would be a sidewalk from Colfax Avenue to York Road along the North Side of Butterfield Road (So that I could walk to the Jewel without having to walk on the grass).

Extended hospital stay resulted in water shut off blue paint on curb and sidewalk - is that really necessary? Why don't you put up a flag that says "deadbeat"? South side streets are horrible -

travel on Berkeley south from Prairie Path to McKinley - third world quality - for years. I'd like to see a survey of gas tax in Elmhurst - Does the extra 15 cents per gallon really help Elmhurst's finances or do other towns reap the reward - I don't know anyone who buys fuel in Elmhurst unless dire emergency. Seems as though more police are hiding then patrolling. Walking through parking lots for license and sticker violations is ridiculous.

The budget has some categories that are too broadly titled for the high amount of dollars being spent in that category. More detailed information should be done for any category over \$50k. Conversely, there are too many categories below \$50k. These small categories should be managed under a bigger umbrella, but then also detailed. This process would streamline the budget and also then highlight where inefficient spending was being done. The budget should also be done in a spreadsheet such as Excel to ease the summarization of data. A large pdf form is just not a good way to communicate the budget.

Elmhurst is a great place to live. However, there is replacement of so many single family homes with "castles" it will soon change the character of the town. We seem to think that bigger is better. There is no place/way for retired people to afford any of the town homes or apartments that we are aware of.

The only comment I have is that I wish vehicles could park on the street overnight. We only have a 2-car garage, so if we have multiple guests from out of town, it is a pain to coordinate. We just moved to Elmhurst in August of 2015 and have truly enjoyed our short time here. I am so happy we decided on Elmhurst.

1) I have seen curb and gutter repairs in my neighborhood that took more than several months to complete. Some of the curb/gutter repairs were done with asphalt (cold patch) for concrete curbs. 2) The comments as to sidewalk maintenance and 50/50 program, I would say that sidewalks should be installed on all streets in the neighborhoods. This is especially true as the neighborhoods are changing to house more young families. The lack of sidewalks is forcing kids into streets to ride bikes, walk to school, travel to friends' houses etc. I have seen many close calls with cars coming close to hitting kids. 3) The issue with the building department is more on enforcement. There are several properties that are not maintained to minimal standards. Minimum standards should be enforced to maintain property values. I don't mind paying higher taxes if everyone is made to keep their property safe and presentable. 4) Elmhurst as a whole is a great place to live, and by and large I think the future of Elmhurst is excellent

We just moved here in April, 2015 and are very happy with our choice of Elmhurst to settle and raise our family. Our "issues" would be deemed "first world problems" such as wishing there were more/better restaurants and shops in the city center, a closer Starbucks to the south part

of town and hoping that people would just attempt to stop at the four-way stop at our corner. We dealt with many of the city services during the move and have been very surprised at how willing everyone is to help (we moved from Chicago, so you know what we're used to). Overall, a wonderful experience thus far for 11 months!

The concrete island on Butterfield Rd. (York Rd) is deteriorating and does not stay patched. The main problem is that it has been used as a truck stop. They leave the trucks running and go to lunch. I am concerned about the grade school children that cross at Butterfield & Kirk Rd. to go to Burger King & McDonalds after school & during the summer. If there was a yellow flashing light (similar to bike paths) it would be safer for the children. They might cross more often at the corner instead of darting out in the middle of the traffic that goes in every direction with all the business there. Also the island has a pothole forming and the chunks fly everywhere. Do we need an island there anymore? Perhaps a turning lane only. Surely the City of Elmhurst can look into this with DuPage County.

In general I think the city does a pretty good job operating and taking care of its' citizens, the thing I/we don't like is how City Centre is managed, we own a business in town and don't feel we get much support for all the money CC takes in, I think they need to justify how they are spending our tax dollars, when we ask our neighbors/friends who live in town they have no idea what CC does and how much money CC takes in and what they do with it, most are very shocked to hear what their budget is and are surprised they don't do a better job of supporting the local businesses, while the staff is generally nice if you stop in their office there is no outreach from them at all, as a business owner who would like to see more/better advertising of CC it's frustrating

Police: I have heard so many unhappy parents of both college age/high school age children. The police are constantly trying to catch them doing any little thing wrong. I realize the tickets and costs are revenue producing but at some point it seems ridiculous. The tax paying parents are the ones paying the fees. An example is a 21 year old male was a block away from his house walking home and was arrested for public intoxication. I feel the police time would be so much better spent trying to help the parents keep the kids off drugs. Most residents I know are afraid of interacting with the police. I also feel that so many taxes are wasted. Do we really need to redo a park every year? Can't the park district be merged with the City and then all this battling over "green space" would stop and tax money would be "saved." The schools have become so liberal. I'm amazed at the assignments that my daughter has to complete. An example is reading "10,000 Acres" this past summer (it was on their list) the main character has an affair with a guy that is also having an affair with her sister, husband commits suicide. The lady buries her miscarriages in the floor of the barn. The sexual descriptions were very detailed. I'm wondering who approved this book. I also think it was a little much for a 14-year

old. I could go on about the inappropriate stuff my daughter comes home with but when I call the school no one cares. Two examples above are focused on the youth. I do feel like the government is steering them in the wrong direction. I also feel like that's why they are doing heroin and acting out. "It takes a village"

Do not always clean the leaves from the street drain. It lets the street flood with storm water. The city removed my parkway tree due to a tree disease. I would like to have it replaced.

My adult children live in Elmhurst, in their own residences. I attend activities in Elmhurst with my grand-children, many times.

Filled out survey and accidentally submitted without comments: I have one code violation grief: Eastbound Belden approaching West Ave: Northside hedges need to be trimmed back to 10ft & 3ft high for better visibility when approaching West Avenue I've been after the City regarding this concern for years. My neighbors agree with me, but they won't do anything about it. In addition: the nuisance tree (cottonwood) by the fire hydrant needs to be removed

What is the expected population growth in the downtown area in the next 2 or 3 yrs? Will the existing sanitary sewer system handle it? I bet it won't and the tax payers will build up footing the bill instead of the developers. How about the impact on the schools? It's going to be big trouble just like all the big new houses. 12 years ago I told you (City Council) that there was too much water being put in the storm sewer due to large roof area gutters, yard drains, and wide concrete driveways all putting way more water into the storm sewers and you said I was wrong because the teardown homes had long driveways, but those driveways were made to drain to the side away from the house putting to water into the lawn where it soaked into the soil. I would rather have a puddle in my yard than have a flooded basement. Most of the "new house people" in my area only care about themselves and could care less about the rest of the neighborhood. I was also told that all the new homes wouldn't affect the schools very much. BS! When you replace a home with 0 children with one with 2-4 children and multiply that by 100's of homes it has to affect the schools! The new storm water retention plans will make most park areas unusable and waste a lot of money! The valve deal with the park district is just plain stupid! That's the taxpayers land not the park district. How much did they pay the city for it? Nothing!

More shopping needed. Need shops to bring people in rather than put for food/dining in area behind York High School - Stop signs on all corners, signs for gourmet food, clothing, books, shops, some of the parking tickets are too petty. Trader Joe's would be nice. Seems to be too many condos being built. Too many smaller homes being sold and larger homes replacing them. Need to keep a variety of home types. Miss Plass Brothers. There are enough (too many) banks. Quality of local newspapers is fair at least.

I have concerns about safety. I don't often see the police in the area. There is an awful lot of speeding on our residential streets. I am also concerned about the City Centre on the weekends. Just recently my teenage son was out there with some friends and had to get picked up by one of the parents because a group of boys from another schools wanted to fight them. There was also an incident where my son saw a fight outside the theatre when he was going to a movie. The police did respond to that incident. I also feel the garbage and recycling collection is subpar. I often find our yards and streets with garbage which must've fallen out of the containers while being collected by the workers.

I love this community and this town. We get great value for our tax dollars; we have excellent schools, which help property values, along with an award winning Park District, phenomenal library, multiple museums, a great college, awesome downtown which is near train and easy to get to Chicago. The challenge will be to keep it a great safe community as we build more rental property and condos in the downtown. I understand the goal is to allow young and retirees a more affordable housing cost. However, we may also get families who can't afford to buy a home, rent a condo or apt. Not that this is a bad thing, but it does change the dynamics of downtown. I realize the closer we live to Chicago and O'Hare that the higher the cost of housing and cost to live. While I love this community and its location to Chicago, O'Hare and suburbs, I do have "house envy" of friends that can buy so much more for less money out west. Maybe I'll retire and buy one of those new condos in downtown, if I can afford it.

Property tax relief needed. Street maintenance needed. Crime protection. Will be difficult to retire here with such high property taxes. Pension reform needed for state, federal, and municipal employees and teachers.

Larger homes causing more water runoff. Storm drains not cleared for surface streets causing flooding. Bike riders not obeying laws, install stop signs on path or adding warning devices. Police stop motorist and ticketed but bike riders are not, they are able to do just opposite disobey traffic devices and laws start a safety program for bikes rules of the road.

Elmhurst police need to have a more POSITIVE relationship with our youth. There is too much emphasis on writing tickets, making money for Elmhurst instead of having an open line of communication. Maybe if this improved we could help get more drugs out of our town. The kids in Elmhurst are constantly afraid of getting in trouble. Please start helping this situation by protecting them instead of assuming they are bad.

The building is out of control and changing the demographics of the community making it not affordable for new families. Downtown is and has been a disaster - no reason to shop. Parking garages are hideous - tall buildings so out of place and will add congestion to already crowded

streets. Taxes rising too fast. Flooding is a nightmare and new homes not following city codes - what happened to 30%? Term limits needed for all officials.

We live in the pick sub-division on a dead end street. We are the last street to be cleared of snow; sometimes we don't even get plowed. We have had this problem ever since we moved here in 2000.

Not sure what the new giant building near CVS is going to be. Not sure why lovely building that Plass Appliances was housed in was torn down. I see so many empty store fronts downtown Elmhurst. We have too many condos, banks, and strange shops, i.e. cupcakes, ice cream, coffee, and popcorn shops?! The traffic on York is awful and will probably be worse. Downtown Downers Grove is busy and exciting. Not sure why downtown Elmhurst is so empty and boring. Elmhurst city officials remind me of Des Plaines in the 70's and 80's. Too many rules - like, why are all the patrons at outdoor dining spots caged in-side silly little "play pens"? Really? Are people really so crazy that they have to be corralled by barriers while restaurants try to put a little European atmosphere in the town? Maybe, I'm just getting crabby and bored with Elmhurst but compared with downtown Geneva or Downers Grove or even the businesses all along Lake Street in Addison, Elmhurst just doesn't seem to have much excitement or activity the last 10 years or so. Maybe the big box stores and franchises are hurting independent businesses? I don't know but Elmhurst is losing a lot of its charm. And there must be reasons for so many empty storefronts in downtown Elmhurst. When we first moved here from Chicago in 1995, it seemed that Elmhurst was a lot more fun and interesting. Either we changed or Elmhurst did! Or perhaps both?

In September of 1977 my husband, myself, and our son and daughter moved into our first home in Elmhurst. It took many years of struggle and progress to find a good community with a quality four-year college for son and daughter and very good high school for our son in a town that is safe and offers many cultural opportunities for entertainment and a wonderful historical museum and library in a great location. Only one thing is missing - a performance arts center for the children. Now, I have been a widow for 12 years, adult son and daughter, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and I am trying very hard to live in my home and be able to enjoy the symphony, theater, library, museum, and etc., in this wonderful community of Elmhurst. So please keep an eye on the park district, school board, and library board to be fiscally responsible. A lot of seniors like me can't afford everything, but their homes are paid for and they just need to afford the taxes! Thanks for reading this.

Flood water has to be corrected, period!!!! We need a Trader Joe's not another bank. Taxes are too high; we don't need another fancy city building. Would much rather have some tax relief.

I have had more theft of items from my home since living in Elmhurst. I have sustained losses from garbage disposal and cable companies who fail to take responsibility. Recently, a rake was stolen from my yard. People walk up my driveway and steal things. They've helped themselves to my vehicles. Neighbors have incurred thefts and won't even report it. I feel like it's getting worse. I'm out of work a lot and these things appear to happen while I am in my house. This is crazy. On another note, we have enough Jewel Food stores...probably more than Starbucks now. We still lack a Trader Joes. I was impressed with the public works crews last winter when they realized that they knocked down a bunch of mailboxes so they tried to repair them. We really need to move away from the mailboxes at the street. Companies have no problem entering our mailboxes to leave their advertising materials. As I understand, this is a federal offense yet no one prosecutes them. With concerns of identity theft and vandalism, I don't want anyone touching my mail or mailbox.

Noise = Airplane/Terrible in our area Blasting at Quarry in early morning Calls F/Solicitation, F/Fire/Police Dept. - That shouldn't be allowed - We pay our taxes. Grass cutting services - coming before 7:00 a.m. Berteau and Schiller house project - way too many - should have limited it to 50. No place to park and will start using side streets and then where will those families park?

Why aren't there more discounts for seniors? Why isn't there more senior housing. Why are there only luxury condos or townhouses? That is all I see now. Why can't the water bill garbage bill be monthly instead of every other month? Not everyone has a computer, you can't expect everyone has time to go on a computer and you are forgetting people who don't have computers.

I am very unhappy with the changes in appearance of the downtown. I would like to know what the 5 year plan is. The entire image of downtown Elmhurst has changed. If I had wanted to live in Oak Park, I would have. It's becoming more urban which, for a lot of people is not acceptable. I wonder if anyone at the City listens to what people are saying.

It is becoming more difficult for senior citizens to reside and to shop in Elmhurst. Vertical parking garages are not convenient for seniors, handicapped or both.

Section 9.9 Never checked it Section 10.8 Stormwater management section No problem on this block Section 12 12.1 - This has changed with growing family

The last few years' snow removal has worsened 1) Plows are slow to respond to snow. Elmhurst side streets are full of snow, outside of Elmhurst I find streets clean. 2) The last few years the plows are leaving a mound of snow down the center of our streets, cars get stuck in it, I've never seen anything like it

There is not enough open soil to soak up rain. The more large houses are built, the increased flooding will occur. All of the big drains being installed are not going to compensate. Having been "caught" in my car on Spring Road on June 15, 2015, to be in the middle of a deluge was very scary. That did not use to occur. What is Elmhurst going to do when the next comparable storm comes?

My husband's and my "biggest" question is how come property taxes continue to increase by hundreds of dollars each year when all the huge new houses are being built and they are paying tons in taxes too? Where is all the increases tax dollar revenue going since these new "McMansions" are replacing "tear down" lower taxed properties?

Snow removal is often done only after the morning commute- neighboring villages do a better job. Sturges parkway & Harbor Terrace never get fully plowed & the resulting ice/snow at the intersection makes it difficult/ unsafe to turn. We were disappointed to see the city spend a million beautifying the alleyway adjacent to the Citibank office. That was a wasted investment. I have spoken to a business owner who left Elmhurst for Wheaton. She said it is too expensive to run a small business in Elmhurst by comparison. Wheaton has a diverse and vibrant area. I suggest comparing business costs & ease of doing business with suburbs Elmhurst wishes to emulate. (Or be better than) The city website should be made easier to find information and forms. The search function returns.

At City Hall, some of the people in building and codes are so rude. They treat you like you worthless. They do not follow through so you have to keep calling. Some construction workers have said Elmhurst permits will be forever. I have looked up averages for job requirements and Elmhurst demands way more. WE should promote people fixing up their houses not make it impossible for the homeowner.

Stormwater flooding is a huge problem in the Willow Pine Avon area. In our first twenty years in our home we never had flood issues but now have to deal with it on an annual basis.

Again I will comment on the cooperation from the Elmhurst Police Dept, they do their regular patrols and are very prompt in responding to any call, very polite & courteous, when speaking with most of the officers. They always inform us, anytime you think it's necessary to call 911 please do so, and they will respond as soon as possible. This is of great importance to our neighborhood, York Rd townhomes. Also we acknowledge many of the city hall employees who work there as well. However we as the citizens would appreciate a little more improvements and recognition to the north corridor and the townhomes on York Rd. We have worked very diligently to improve the neighborhood. One service that needs improvement is street sweeping. N York Rd is very untidy as well as Virginia, and definitely needs improvement.

Maintaining infrastructure of plumbing with all of these mansions on an older infrastructure will be a huge problem in the next 5 years. Large mansions on small amounts of land. More plumbing demand on an older infrastructure with flooding problems already. People want to live here because of the schools but change their mind because of the flooding issues. I believe a gift card for the City Centre should be given for all the persons taking the time to fill out this very long survey.

There are too many empty storefronts in downtown Elmhurst. Lots of new & old buildings are empty.

* Want a Trader Joes! Streets not maintained (potholes) throughout the winter. Sidewalks are not properly maintained-sinking & rising from tree roots & settling- Dangerous to walk on all over the neighborhoods. Snow is removed too slowly from our street Colfax. Animal control- Elmhurst has too many skunks, raccoons passing & coyotes. Either city deals with them or return to the lend a cage program where you pick up a cage w/ a critter. It's over \$100 to get rid of each critter I hate the policy where my son can't park his car on the street in front of our house- overnight. You could start a street parking permit like in the city of Chicago where if displayed you can leave your car overnight in your neighborhood. I realize families that have lots of cars would have restrictions (maybe 2 cars per house) or something like that. I think people who want to downsize and retire here its really hard for them as the taxes are so high. We know multiple retirees who have sold their homes & had to move to surrounding suburbs b/c its more affordable (Lombard, Villa Park) I know the city does mosquito control which we appreciate, but it's really not enough. They are horrible in Elmhurst. Garbage stickers/ yard wastes& regular are too expensive How about the program of raking the leaves in the street to be picked up instead of put in bags Need more bike parking in city center & near all business!

1. The City website needs an overhaul. It is very hard to find anything on it. An e-newsletter that came out more often than the Front Porch does would be nice too. 2. Elmhurst should have more recycling: old TVs, recycling at restaurants, food waste, better signs. 3. Look at making rain gardens, permeable parking lots, planting more trees, plus better rules for % permeable/impervious surfaces. Stormwater projects should include more natural, less costly solutions as well as the big detention projects.

District 205 Taxes will have us moving after 2017 as it is too expensive to live here as a retired person. Downtown parking has made York Road look like an abandoned city. Your shop 'locally' is non-sense. I loved the Elmhurst Olive Oil & Health food store but you can't park around them. Our Police have a horrible reputation. If you can say you live here the first thing you hear is an anti-Elmhurst police story.

While a large parking garage is currently being built, right now parking in town is difficult. I go out to lunch/dinner with my husband and/or friends 4-5 times per month. We rarely eat in Elmhurst for lack of quality places. We drive to Oakbrook, Hinsdale, Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, etc. They have cute interesting places for a group of women to have a nice lunch. We are always commenting "why can't Elmhurst have places like this." The same goes for nice boutique type shops for clothing, décor, gift items. Look at towns like La Grange and Hinsdale. I will drive there for these things. I would love to just go to downtown Elmhurst to shop or eat. With all this construction near Panera, Addison St, and Plass' old building I am hoping there will be some interesting shops going in. How about some gourmet food shops. (I miss the Olive Oil Store). How about a vintage consignment show (and not like the pink elephant!!) Please, no more banks.

2.16 Rarely do we see a squad car drive by our neighborhood. We had a spotlight stolen from the front of the house in the last 6 months. 3.3 There are some barren spots in the parkway where I have tried to seed the grass but not been successful. I called public works and they seeded the barren spots but that did not work either. 10.8 There are some homes in the neighborhood that are an eyesore, which could reduce property value. Another concern is that there are not sufficient affordable homes for seniors (sixty-plus) who want to downsize to new construction. New townhomes have asking prices in the \$700 to \$900,000. If I sell my house I would be purchasing a smaller home for the same price I would be selling mine, and my taxes, which are already high, would probably be more than what I am paying now.

Too often, some emergency vehicles (particularly ambulances) use their sirens excessively when it does not appear necessary for safety. Also, the city has no problem with developers tearing down old houses and putting up cookie-cutter McMansions. This does not necessarily enhance neighborhoods, I'm worried in 10 years these will look so unimpressive and we will have lost what made neighborhoods unique and diverse. I also have a problem with the developers getting a free reign- we've had several new construction projects in our neighborhood that are almost at 2 years, and one now over 2 years. It's embarrassing to go by these and view garbage and construction debris all over the place. I worry that these will just be inviting more crime in to our neighborhoods (people looking to steal from construction sites).

Too many streets in need of repair/repaving It is hard to remember all the "issues/benefits" related to city government when asked to complete a lengthy survey like this in a relatively short period of time- A better way might be to assign citizens to a yearly panel to report issues as they come up- of course if there is a significant problem we can always contact city hall or our alderman on a "one-shot" basis Traffic after school on St. Charles Road can be quite a challenge-traffic lights should be adjusted allowing for longer green lights on St. Charles for a

short period of time. Traffic lights on York Rd from North Ave southward should also be re-examined maybe allowing for longer green lights during evening rush hour.

When we came to Elmhurst in 1972, police were often patrolling the streets between midnight and 5am, this stopped about 8 years ago. In the few incidents that I have seen the police in action, they have been very professional. School district 205 is one of Elmhurst greatest assets.

If bothers me greatly to see programs/classes offered by the park district charge non-residents a fee slightly higher than residents. As a resident of Elmhurst, I feel my taxes paid afford me these programs. Why should non-residents receive the same programs at a minimally higher fee? I think non-residents should be charged double the resident fee. I also would like to see park district camps and rec. station provide a discount to multiple children families (e.g. 10% off 2nd child, 20% off 3rd child). My husband and I both work and having 4 children in Funseekers is quite expensive at \$150 a child per week. The (private, mom and pop) car dealers on Lake Street and West Avenue are an eye sore (mi gente motors). They really bring the class of Elmhurst down. Not to mention that dilapidated building on Lake Street just west of the Jaguar Dealer. I know if my home looked like that I would have plenty of tickets to go with it.

We've had issues trying to get sidewalks on our street since my daughter started kindergarten and now she's a sophomore in college. We had the petition signed and attended an open house at City Hall for our street, thinking the project was a go. Someone came out and marked trees for removal, not sure why when they didn't seem to interfere with the sidewalk and then re-surveyed everyone and lost the petition. It's mandatory that our section of Elmhurst has to have the kids bussed to Field school and yet we had to have them walk in the street or walk on people's lawns, to get to the bus stop. Our kids are grown now and some neighbors with kids have since moved out of Elmhurst so it's a moot point but still a sore subject. We live on N. Howard Ave, north of 290 and my neighbor and I live at the lowest point of the street. With all the teardowns and rebuilds, our street now floods almost every time it rains heavy. We chose to do a huge remodel instead of moving out of the City, mostly because we couldn't afford a bigger house here and because we liked our neighborhood. Ever since that remodel completed 8 years ago, our basement has flooded 3-4 times. I've lived here since 1990 and never got water until the remodel was done. Not only did burying our downspouts add to the problem, but there is no pumping station on the north end of town to alleviate the heavy rainstorms we've encountered. I've attended several City meetings, including the one at Bryan Middle school, the year the flooding was the worst for us. I've not seen anyone from the City bother to take action or talk to us 'north' siders about a resolution. My neighbor has lived her longer than us and has always called our section the 'little houses on the prairie' and I know why. Their basement has flooded worse than ours each time and they can no longer get flood insurance since they've filed claims twice now. Until a few years ago, we use to lose power EVERY time

there was a storm. It didn't matter how heavy or light the rain, any sign of thunder and lightning and our power went out. That has definitely improved but water issues have not. In fact they are getting worse. I don't live in a flood plain but I'm not sure getting flood insurance will help after seeing what my neighbors have gone through. The only time we got assistance, was when FEMA came in and took over. I'm tired of going to the City meetings, voicing my opinions and having nothing change. I love living here and am very happy I decided to buy my house almost 26 years ago and decided to raise a family here but I don't think the City listens to the citizens when it comes to specific areas. Just because the south side seems to have more people affected by flooding, doesn't mean it's not happening on the north side. That includes our City Rep, Michael Braum - he is worthless to this area. The last time the street flooded and he couldn't get through, he was out there telling us, we need to clear the storm sewers. The street/sewers weren't full of debris and we do keep them clear because we know how they flood, the issue was the water couldn't drain into the storm system and gravity wasn't working. (It has to go all the way to County Line Rd which is over a mile from us)

Am a member of the Historical Museum- find it not user friendly for me. The Road-Brushhill- is in need of repair-an ambulance ride there becomes a painful ride due to holes & dips. Too bad it wasn't upgraded while the hospital was being built. The Frontage road by the grade school @ 86 needs yellow lane lines. This south Elmhurst. The "look of Elmhurst" has been ruined with the 6th floor garage. It is truly an eye sore. Let's not get carried away. Higher is not more pleasant to the skyline. We are a beautiful suburb not the next best thing to Chicago.

Poor ratings mostly subjective. It would be nice if the city can issue newsletters in the mail to residents concerning what is going on in local government and other topics of interest. Once every 6 months should suffice.

12.2 - s. Other - Trains (not moving) and blocking intersection for hours. 12.3 - s. Retirees leaving due to high taxes. Ticketing cars parked on private property in violation of the municipal code which states the car must be operating on a city street (vehicle sticker). Trains blocking crossings for hours when they are not moving. Train noise; blowing the train whistle numerous times or excessively. Tax assessments in extreme excess compared to what homes are actually selling for; my last assessment identified more than a 100,000 value increase in a single year after I bought it on a small inexpensive ranch home.

12.3 - Substance Abuse (In Schools). I don't know/haven't heard of any news regarding the city's budget and financial management. The online payment of vehicle stickers needs to be enhanced to be able to add new cars - can't do it online. Parkway trees are losing lots of branches and limbs that cover the streets after a little bit of wind. Would like to hear more about our drinking water, especially since Flint, MI has been dealing with issues. The Front Porch newsletter is great and very informative! We loved the Rock the Block Party last year!

We always enjoy the tree lighting ceremony each year too! We really enjoy the Art Walk each year and I didn't see that listed.

Majority of events for children are poorly planned and or poorly timed. Easter egg hunt is a disaster with not enough eggs and way too small of an area. Touch a truck was inaccessible because it was during a time when there was no parking because of all the games going on at Berens Park. Tree lighting is too late for younger kids. Just to name a few. We've stopped going because it's nothing but disappointment. Could easily be rectified but whomever plans them doesn't seem to have a clue.

Very disappointed in city response to flooding issues. A lot of excuses and passing the buck instead of solutions. Not enough focus on making quality of living in Elmhurst better. Too many teardowns ruining the integrity of the city. More interested in \$\$ than the quality and integrity of our town.

Survey was poorly designed- especially section 12 General Comments. If requesting only 3 be chosen then lock function- the template used allows for someone to rate each selection 1-3. If Other is offered as a choice, should add comment box- how do you know what the intent of the "Other" is? Quality of Schools is too general of a choice. Are you asking for educational curriculum or funding?

We seem to have a problem with maintaining our downtown business community. What is Elmhurst doing differently than other thriving downtowns like LaGrange or Naperville or Hinsdale? Why do we have so many businesses that fail to thrive? Are the costs of rent too high? I would love to see more restaurants and variety therein, to draw people from inside and outside of Elmhurst to our downtown area.

Overall, I enjoy living in Elmhurst. I personally believe that property taxes are extremely high considering that the services are fair at best. As a new resident, I was not aware of the amenities in the area. Trash removal is too limited for the amount of taxes paid.

Downtown Elmhurst needs better and more diverse dining options. Think better quality of food (sans Italian/pizza and bar food), and more energetic restaurants. Elmhurst government bodies (City, Parks, and Schools) need to find a way to get the stormwater solutions implemented, after many years and discussions. Specifically, the park board needs to get out of the way. Bigger problems require bigger decisions and they have shown me over the last few years that they are incapable of making big decisions. In comparison to similar towns, their parks and fitness centers are more updated and better maintained. Courts Plus leaves much to be desired. The people and location ultimately make this town a great place to live. It's nice to see the downtown area progressing with the change in lifestyle and demographic demands.

Significant concerns with all the construction in town center - will lead to over-crowding and traffic congestion. Too big too fast...

Elmhurst isn't ideal for retirement because there isn't a lot of affordable housing available. New developments all seem to emphasize high end luxury residences with correspondingly high tax bills that are hard to manage on a retirement income. There should be more incentives encouraging trees on private property. New developments or additions often remove trees from the property during the construction process because they are inconvenient in some way. There should be more incentives for a household to produce less trash. In addition a curbside kitchen composting pickup would divert significant material away from landfills. Our recycling program is good but there is considerable confusion about what exactly can be recycled. There is no reference documentation detailing what can and cannot be accepted by the program. The recycling bins in the city center areas are inconsistent and separated from the trash bins. This reduces their effectiveness since separating the recycling from the trash is inconvenient causing people to either mix refuse and recycling, or simply place it in the nearest receptacle without regard to what should be collected there. Many private property assistance programs are poorly publicized and the information about these programs is difficult to find.

In general I love living here. However, living next door to a construction site has damaged my property & there is no resource or support from the City or Police. It makes me realize they city doesn't value its residents. Also, being an Elmhurst public school teacher & living in Elmhurst is becoming difficult due to increased utilities & cost of living but no increase in salaries. Perhaps, the city can tighten up its zoning laws & not let builders put huge homes on tiny lots. It looks terrible.

Our biggest issue is the recent increases in property assessments and property taxes. Within 2 years of moving here our property taxes increased by nearly 50%. Not only do the assessments seem to be inflated but the city and other taxing bodies seem to be asking for a larger and larger percentage every year. I realize the state is in financial trouble but the taxes are unsustainable and will force residents to move.

I have watched in the papers, online, and at meetings, the way the city has managed its finances, the stormwater management catastrophe, funding for silly projects at the expense of necessary ones, etc. The fact that Courts Plus has employees who have a pension is a great if small example. I live on Jackson Street, which becomes a river and either inhibits me from going to work or getting home from work about two times a year. My home value has declined over the past 10 years due to stormwater mismanagement, fiscal mismanagement in the city and the school district, and the quality of the school system. My daughter ended up leaving 8th grade in the public schools with exemplary grades but couldn't write a cogent sentence when she started at Montini. The way the various public service factions of the city

and surrounding area have failed to work together for the good of the citizens is reprehensible and it has been the same under three different mayors: 1.) starting with Marcucci, who ran the city like he owned it and handed out favors and contracts to his friends and allowed the building boom to take place without proper planning. His administration enacted the regulation that caused the stormwater management problem by making all of the tear-down/rebuilds to feed their gutter systems straight to the stormwater system (and which the city still will not admit and reverse). 2,) To DiCianni who funneled money from his campaign to pay for the million DiCianni signs that his campaign bought from his company, giving him a huge profit and saving his printing business, 3.) to the inept current administration that can't get the Park District Board to come to a reasonable agreement with the city and school district, all of which are supposed to serve the citizens of the city. The way the city has been run is a joke. People I used to know and I supported ran for the Park District Board and then make many of the mistakes referred to above, so I am partly to blame as well. The taxes continue to rise while the property values and school quality goes down. The city is following the same pattern as the state. Bloated budget, spending on pensions for the schools and city works, police and fire pensions, trolley cars instead of stormwater solutions, protecting the number of days our fields can be used at the expense of citizens whose houses flood due to city policies that still remain. I have a home with a driveway too short for my cars and the city harasses us and gives us tickets for having the back bumper partially block the sidewalk, because neighbors who have nothing better to do call and complain instead of just walking around the car. So we have to wake up daily and move the cars before 6:30 a.m. so people are not bothered to walk around our car that partially blocks the sidewalk. That's a real neighborly feel to the city! Not to mention that there are several days a year when it's impossible to park on the street because if we did so, the cars would be a total loss due to the river that runs down our street. I have friends on other streets that have it worse (100 block of Pine, or Mitchell, south of Valette, for example) and would probably be better off just turning the keys to their home into the bank and walking away. I literally can't wait to leave this city and I hope to do so as soon as I can get my money out of this house, which will probably be in another decade. The city is an embarrassment and if I was not stuck in a home that is under-water in value, and if my daughter was not tied to the schools, I would leave - and I will as soon as those two things change.

Section 3 - Public Works Streets are horrible from 3rd to 2nd, streets too narrow for ambulance
Refuse Collection - They throw cans wherever they want

It's a shame that otherwise we are satisfied with the police department that one "kooky" arrogant officer can ruin our opinion of the entire department and the town as a whole. I hope our new police chief will keep a watchful eye on him! We used to have helpful officers in this town. I hope that the department isn't taking the path of all young cocky cops!

I believe the library should move or add to their book drop off location. If someone is it at the library window, there is not room for other cars to drop off their books. I think the city would benefit from having a sports complex to include basketball and volleyball courts - Carol Stream has a beautiful facility. I recently read that there is a study being done by the city on the feasibility of such a sports complex. I have heard that if you park in one place downtown for 30 minutes (in a 3 hour parking area) and then go later in the day and park in a different location (again in a 3 hour zone) that you could get a ticket if your car was tagged from the first time you parked. This does not seem fair. Across from the post office, where there used to be a gas station, is an eye sore. Seems like that would be prime space - maybe to make the bicycle parking you mentioned above?

When street lighting goes out many times it takes months to replace. When lighting has been replaced the lighting in residential areas is now like a beacon and way too bright. When the manhole covers are replaced after work has been done in the streets many times it is not properly replaced and when cars drive over it the noise is very loud and annoying. In the parking garages traffic officers giving out tickets will wait for a vehicle to park incorrectly and then when the person leaves will then swoop in and give a ticket. The signs in the various rows of parking are very misleading and hard to read. If an officer clearly sees that someone has misread the sign he should make them aware of his mistake instead of just waiting to pounce. It makes it seem as if they are money hungry and not interested in the safety or concern of its citizens.

Told City an ash tree on Parkway had ash borer & was dying and took several years for them to believe me. Finally cut it down (city) & then refused to replace tree saying spacing of tree placement on parkway is lengthening, stumps now count as "Tree" so three houses in a row with stumps won't get trees according to city.

Commuter parking is very limited and fills up too quickly in the morning. I thought the new parking garage would alleviate the situation, but they have limited the commuter all day parking to level 6 in the garage. That garage is my last option in the morning and then it's irritating to drive up 5 levels of emptiness to finally get to the commuter parking. I would think that the city would rather have more "paying" parking spots to help pay for the garage and it doesn't make sense that there isn't more commuter spaces that are free after 5pm and weekends. The whole garage is a waste of money as it stands (EMPTY)!

This is a very poor rating about city services. I have been dealing with this for years. I live on a corner and I have trouble with snow removal. As the plow comes down the street - just as he comes to my drive way he pulls away from the curb so that he can make the corner to make it easy for his turn. Now, I know that we are told to not put drive way snow in the street, but the snow is already 3 feet into the street (away from the drive way). As I said, I have been dealing

with this for years – ask staff in the Department of Public Works. They know about this problem. I will not pay my snow removal guy to clean the street. It is the job of the Public Works Department to clean this snow. Staff has come personally to clean the snow for me but his crew consistently fails to clean the street properly.

I worked at Elmhurst Hospital (old location) for 26 years. In winter, people coming into Elmhurst all said "you can tell when you get to Elmhurst because the streets aren't plowed". Our street floods every time we have a heavy rain. NOTHING is being done. Parking garages are being built, you are considering making bike lanes and we still suffer our losses while the City tells us they're looking into it.

Could not get to survey link online. So did this paperwork. Didn't ask the right questions Kids growing up in Elmhurst have nothing to go out & do, no places to go- so hangout downtown, get high & drunk-very boring place for kids- I raised one here- she told me this too often. Please take some action on this front, if any.

We had had a few dealings with the city service and all were very poor. For example, it took us over 5 months to get a tree removed - the city was basically zero help in working with the recommended vendor to get the job completed. Yet the finance department sent letter threatening legal action with regards to payment even though the Public Works Department said not to pay until job was complete. The follow-up and communication is very poor. We had another issue with regards to water bills that was also very poor customer service. Our experience with the grade school we attend has been average at best. While I would love to say Elmhurst has great schools, honestly our school leadership/teacher seem very content with just average - ensuring students are not failing but not very concerned if they are meeting their full potential. While students are exposed to a broad set of subjects there is very little innovation. Being able to attract and maintain business into down town Elmhurst has been a disappointment for us. When we first moved here 5 years ago we thought the down town Elmhurst area was going to be such an asset. However there seems to be more empty storefronts every week. When we see Hinsdale and LaGrange downtowns we thought that was what Elmhurst would be too. And of course all the while we pay such high property and increasing tax (over +12% in 5 years) but don't get a high return in service, schools or down town. We appreciate the city trying to improve however there does not seem to be urgency to action.

Public works does not respond timely to address issues. Example: tree trimming, street sweeping, sewer clearance, pot hole repairs. We should not be charged extra for refuse and yard waste stickers. Our taxes are high and climbing. We are also charged for our refuse and recyclable cans. Code enforcement is very lacking. I have observed multiple building code violations from early work starts on new home construction sites to more serious violations for

failure to provide silt fence and properly fence areas. These pose potentially dangerous situations to children in the neighborhood. Citing the builders can also be a good source of revenue for the City. The code officers need to be out in the neighborhoods, actively monitoring the new home construction sites.

Some areas of Elmhurst could use sidewalks they are conducive to raising children here and walking dogs safely. Older residents would appreciate smaller rubbish containers. They tend to be easier to handle and there could be a discount for small container for them also.

Elmhurst used to be "tree city". I understand the Ash Tree problem, but why are we taking down so many other trees? Just this spring numerous trees taken down on the prairie path (tracks to pipen) & after trail Elmhurst used to look for any reason to cut down trees. Now they seem to look for any reason to cut one down. We over trim the existing trees. And we do a poor job of replacing them. Go to any block in town and you will find gaps that are barren and where trees could be planted. We could plant 10k trees easily. Sure not like the old days. Approx. 20% of the homes in Elmhurst have been razed and replaced by homes 3x the value of the old one (200% valuation increase) if 20% of the homes in town are now worth 200% more, why is it we aren't seeing big reductions on our property tax bills. I can't figure it out. Just doesn't add up. I still see an increase each year. I'm not blaming the police, because I know they have a lot to do. But traffic enforcement is poor. I try to adhere to "it's our town lets slow down" but get tailgated like crazy. Butterfield Road is particularly bad. I do a lot of walking and I constantly see people blowing through stop signs on the side streets. I know it is sacrilege in Elmhurst to criticize teardowns and buildings so I won't waste my breath but the main reason the streets are bad in town is not because of the snow/salt/plowing. It is due to all the new homes going up and the heavy vehicles on the streets.

Residents which are allowed to park blocking the public sidewalks should only be allowed to block the public sidewalk during the hours the city does not allow street parking.

Need to get better restaurants in town. Hinsdale, Oak Brook, Western Springs all with much better places to eat and more variety of choices. Too much Italian food.

Elmhurst is a great place to live and raise children but the tax rates as compared to other nearby cities seem very high. Because of this we are seriously considering moving from Elmhurst when we retire, which is a very disappointing position to be in after living here for almost 30 years. You didn't ask much about the Library services outside of physically visiting the library...the online services made available are absolutely excellent and I use them often even though I don't actually visit the physical location. Finally, the nitpicking on small building code violations is frustrating...we had two inspectors give us different instructions on a project last year and it wasn't the first time this has happened.

With the new apartments going in with retail on the street level what type of business will gain more residents. We have enough empty buildings. Parking at the library at times is hard to find. I spend less than 15 minutes, it would be nice if some parking spots assigned for ½ hour parking.

1. Parking: to be clear, there appears to be enough parking. Instead the parking problem is that virtually all the newer parking lots (Less than 20 years old) are too small. Examples include the CVS lot at North & York; the lot in front of Walgreens/Egg Harbor the new lots at 83 & St. Charles 2. Building code enforcement: It appears that the builders of new "teardown" homes run the city's zoning & building code personnel (examples of abuse include: the many deteriorating streets in front of new homes from the poor patch jobs & extremely off balance buildings footprints versus green space. 3. Zoning. The commercial area building to street setbacks again favors builder density over pedestrian accessibility & user friendly. Examples include the lack of adequate streetscape front new developments like fountain square, lake side Bank & Hahn Street. 4. City Greenscape when we moved to Elmhurst 30 years ago it deserved & honored the name "city of trees". That is now questionable at best. We are on a corner lot that had 6 mature Elm trees. We split the treatment fees w/ the city for years then the city for years, and then the city discontinued that program. Now we have 2 of the 6 living a really irreplaceable loss. * All the above noted, the City is well positioned to be an outstanding place to live. Focus on "Quality," Neighborhood respect" and leveraging the city's obvious assets (location, its people, its history) all well if city leadership keeps its collective eye & intention on what's good about town.

I am tired of all the mcmansions. I am surrounded by them. There is no such thing as a quaint city it once was, my property taxes are very high because of all the mcmansions I'm surrounded with. I live in an Emery Manor Ranch House. These builders block my Driveway and make constant Noise. Wreck the Streets. My house shakes. I moved from Chicago to get peace + quiet + Elmhurst is the noisiest place I have ever lived. I realize the streets have to be kept up but do we have to do every street every year? It takes forever to get anywhere in Elmhurst. I can get to work in Schaumburg faster than going to the South end of Elmhurst.