

LWV-OBSERVER REPORT  
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL  
November 19, 2008

MEETING: Elgin City Council  
DATE: November 19, 2008  
LEAGUE MEMBER OBSERVING: Sigi Psimenos  
OFFICIALS ATTENDING: Council Members & Mayor  
ABSENT: Steffen  
PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: Yes  
PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Yes

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Laurel Bault representing the LWV-Elgin reported there is currently a shortage of housing for the mentally ill who are currently being warehoused in nursing homes & prisons. She requested the City look at granting funds to supply housing for this under served & periled community through its Neighborhood Stabilization Program. \$2.2 Million Dollars in federal money will be coming to Elgin as a part of the US Dept. Of HUD through its Neighborhood Stabilization Program the beginning of the year. Bill Klaves, Development Director for Habitat for Humanity stated the city could get more mileage out of the money by working with them rather than just buying foreclosed homes from banks. Jim Durante, Elgin Realtor, said 100% of the funding should go toward housing, not administrative items such as classes for new homeowners which are already plentiful. Councilman Kaptain said many groups have volunteered to help with rehabilitation projects and should be taken advantage of to stretch these dollars. No formal discussion has taken place, but staffers recommend the funds be used to buy & rehab clusters of homes in the near west & near east side neighborhoods hit hard by foreclosures.

NEXT MEETING: December 3, 2008

Respectfully Submitted: Sigi Psimenos