



AGENDA

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Health and Safety Committee: January 7, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Village Hall 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2025
- C. Public Comment**
- D. New Business**
 - 1. Safe Routes to School Village-Wide Travel Plan - Final Plan and Presentation
 - 2. Greenest Region Compact Resolution
- E. Other Business**
- F. Adjournment**

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**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Date: October 28, 2025
Time: 5:15 PM
Location: Village Hall, Board Room
740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558**

Present:

Chair Avakian, Member Fink, Manager Baer, Director Scott, Director Mastendona, Director Gilhooley and Attorney Skrodzki.

1. Call to Order

Chair Avakian called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM. A motion to open the meeting was made by Chair Avakian and seconded by Member Fink. The motion passed via roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Avakian moved to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Fink and passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. New Business

a. Purchase of Stryker MTS Power Load System

Director Scott presented a recommendation to approve the purchase of a Stryker MTS Power Load System and associated equipment to enhance EMS safety and operational efficiency.

Director Scott stated the system is a powered cot loading and unloading system designed to reduce the risk of injury to EMS personnel and improve patient handling. This system can lift 700 lbs. It integrates with the Fire Department's existing ambulance fleet and stretcher configurations and Stryker has a proven track record in emergency medical equipment along with a robust service and support system.

The equipment will be installed in the Fire Department's new ambulance, which is expected to be delivered within the next thirty-six months. The cost of the equipment is \$68,038.61 with an additional \$967.53 for shipping and handling. The vendor has offered \$7,000 trade-in credit for the Fire Department's existing equipment.

Village Attorney Skrodzki is currently engaged in contract finalization with Stryker. Director Scott provided information with the quote and stated Stryker is a sole source provider.

A motion to approve the purchase of the Stryker MTS Power Load System was made by Chair Avakian and seconded by Member Fink. The motion passed via roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

b. Intergovernmental Agreement with LaGrange Park for Fire Academy Training Participation

Chief Scott presented a recommendation to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Village of Western Springs and the Village of LaGrange Park for Fire Academy participation. The IGA will formalize LaGrange Park's participation in the Western Springs Fire Academy beginning in January of 2026. It will outline responsibilities, fee structures, liability provisions and mutual expectations for trainee conduct and compliance.

A motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the LaGrange Park Fire Department for the Academy Training participation was made by Chair Avakian and seconded by Member Fink. The motion passed via roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

c. Police and Fire Department Budget Overview

Director Mastendona provided an update on the Village of Western Springs 2026 budget. He stated the budget is currently not in the final stages due to insurance rates rising 32% in 2026. He advised this is over a \$500,00 increase from this year. He also advised that the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) is projected to have a 10% increase in 2026.

Manager Baer advised the village is working on making up the cost differential in the budget. She stated that a 32% increase in insurance was unexpected as the market is 15% to 20% increase. Manager Baer stated the increase in insurance rates is due to some big claims Western Springs employees have been made recently.

5. Other Business

- None

6. Adjournment

Chair Avakian moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Member Fink and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Gilhooley
Director of Law Enforcement Services

DRAFT



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Health and Safety Committee: January 7, 2026

AGENDA ITEM D.1.

To: Public Health and Safety Committee

From: Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager

CC: Ellen Baer, Village Manager, Jeff Koza, Director of Engineering Services, Matthew Supert, Director of Municipal Services

RE: Safe Routes to School Village-Wide Travel Plan - Final Plan and Presentation

Recommendation

Representatives from the Village consultant, Epstein, will provide various infrastructure improvement and policy recommendations in the final report. There is no specific recommendation at this time, however the plan will provide information vital to advancing infrastructure improvements.

Summary

In 2024, the Village was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant, totaling \$75,000, to develop a Village-wide school travel plan and Epstein was chosen as the Village's consultant through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. The grant was awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and no Village match was required. The plan is substantially complete and Epstein will be at the January 26, 2026 Board Meeting to present the results.

The plan provides solutions to improve walking and biking opportunities and awareness for students. This includes short-term and long-term improvements and policy recommendations for staff and the Village Board to consider. The study will include D101 (Forest Hills, Field Park, McClure, and Laidlaw), D106 (LaGrange Highlands), LTHS (North and South), and St. John of the Cross. Improvements are expected to include sidewalk installation/reconfigurations, intersection safety improvements, bike safety considerations, right-of-way and drop-off improvements, and more.

Project Highlights

Epstein will provide a thorough overview of the plan, public input process, infrastructure/policy recommendations, and more at the Board Meeting. Highlights to note are:

- Two (2) Public Surveys
 - Survey #1 had 448 responses focused on safety, new sidewalks, and enforcement.
 - Survey #2 had 279 responses focused on new infrastructure elements.
- 70+ community members engages at Touch-a-Truck and Gathering on the Green
- Six (6) walk audits during school drop-off and pick-up hours.

- Established Steering Committee with D101 and D106 representation, community members, and staff.
- 50+ infrastructure recommendations
 - FY2026 budget includes design engineering funds for sidewalk infill projects in Old Town North and Forest Hills
- Three (3) recommended policy considerations

Financial Impact

None.

Recommended Motion

None.

Strategic Plan Alignment

- Infrastructure Improvements
- Community Planning and Economic Development
- Public Safety and Community Engagement

File Attachments

None



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Health and Safety Committee: January 7, 2026

AGENDA ITEM D.2.

To: Public Health and Safety Committee

From: Daisy Chavez, Assistant to the Village Manager

CC: Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Ellen Baer, Village Manager

RE: Greenest Region Compact Resolution

Recommendation

Consider recommending to the Village Board the adoption of the Greenest Region Compact Resolution.

Summary

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus [Greenest Region Compact](#) (GRC), promotes sustainability in communities around the Chicago region with an emphasis on building strong and vibrant communities. The GRC is composed of 49 high-level goals that have been reached by consensus. These goals address the following ten (10) categories: climate, economic development, energy, land, leadership, mobility, municipal operations, sustainable communities, water, waste and recycling. The GRC guides municipalities towards sustainable goals and actions and encourages communities to work together to create a sustainable region. It aligns community priorities, builds on existing best practices, and capitalizes on the collective expertise of community leaders in the metropolitan region. To date, [165 communities](#) have adopted the GRC to improve sustainability plans. Municipalities adopt the GRC by resolution, agreeing to work to achieve sustainability goals.

Municipalities are not required to achieve every goal in the GRC. Instead, the goals provide a framework and direction in common areas of municipal sustainability accomplishments. The GRC framework was created for municipalities to use as a checklist to record progress and achievements. In preparing for this meeting, a working group, comprised of Village of Western Springs staff from all departments, completed a customized Western Springs framework with completed, in-progress, and future sustainable initiatives. Future initiatives will be noted and discussed with appropriate Board Committees or, for larger initiatives, at future Strategic Planning sessions. At this time, there is no reporting requirement or specific project timeline with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Projects are prioritized and monitored by municipalities to suit their own objectives and there is no cost to adopt the GRC.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommended Motion

I move to recommend to the Village Board the adoption of the Greenest Region Compact.

Strategic Plan Alignment

- Public Safety and Community Engagement
- Sustainability

File Attachments

1. GRC Collaborating for Sustainable Communities
2. GRC2-Municipal-Resolution-FINAL_4.6.2018



COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The member municipalities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus seek a vibrant, sustainable future for their communities and the greater Chicago region. The consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact aim for enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

To become the most sustainable and successful region in the United States, they, therefore, support the following consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact and agree to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region:



Climate

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation



Economic Development

- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses



Energy

- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices



Land

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible, well-used, and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community



Leadership

- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership
- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2
- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region



Mobility

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices



Municipal Operations

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability



Sustainable Communities

- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability



Waste & Recycling

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling



Water

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve and water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship



Endorsing the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Greenest Region Compact

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus provides a forum for the chief elected officials of the Chicago region to develop consensus and act on common public policy issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' participating Mayors and their communities have a history of environmental stewardship, from energy efficiency, water conservation, urban forestry, and participation in Clean Air Counts; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Mayors and local governments throughout the United States to take leadership roles to advance sustainability both in their own communities and in concert with regional, national and global initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus created the Greenest Region Compact to address environmental sustainability issues of global importance at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact, an update to the original pledge and sometimes referred to as the Greenest Region Compact 2, is built on important environmental initiatives already underway in communities, in partnership with many non-profit, state, regional and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact synthesizes sustainability goals already adopted by leading communities in the region; and these consensus goals align with common regional, state, national and global objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact offers a companion Framework to guide communities of all sizes and strengths to assess their current efforts; develop a sustainability plan suited to local priorities; and will offer resources to help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, the consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact will guide coordinated efforts toward enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City/Village of _____ endorses the Greenest Region Compact proposed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and agrees to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region.