



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**Misty Buscher
Mayor**

Springfield, IL – The City of Springfield is proud to announce the launch of the second year of the **BUILD Springfield** flagship program, an initiative championed by Mayor Misty Buscher to promote community development, address blight, and enhance public safety in Springfield's neighborhoods. The upcoming community outreach event, scheduled for **October 5th**, will showcase exhibits from a diverse range of community partners and City of Springfield departments. The event aims to gather feedback from the community on strengthening community ties and offer vital information and resources. The program will provide access to all departments at the City of Springfield. The event will take place from **9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Bunn Field, located at 1300 E. Division.**

The grant program represents a continuation of the achievements made in its inaugural year, underscoring the City's dedication to creating a healthier, safer, and more vibrant Springfield.

BUILD Springfield, an acronym for **Beautification, Unity, Innovation, Leadership, and Development**, was designed to bring about long-lasting, positive change to Springfield's neighborhoods by using innovative strategies and non-traditional approaches. The program's focus is on improving the quality of life in underserved areas and fostering collaboration between local government, citizens, and community organizations.

"We are dedicated to strengthening relationships between the City of Springfield and our residents," said Mayor Misty Buscher. "The BUILD Springfield program is more than just an initiative—it's a partnership. By working hand in hand with our community, we're not only addressing public safety and beautification but also creating open lines of communication. We want our residents to know their voices matter, and we are here to listen. Through innovative approaches and collaboration, we are committed to building a safer, healthier, and more united Springfield for everyone."

Highlights from BUILD Springfield's Inaugural Year (2022-2023):

- Reached over **5,000 residents** through proactive door-to-door engagement by City staff and leadership.
- Collected **200+ service requests** and distributed educational resources on City services to residents.
- Partnered with **34 local organizations** to enhance access to community resources.
- Facilitated direct engagement between **200+ City staff** and community residents to address challenges and gather feedback.
- Achieved an **8.8% quarterly reduction in gunshot detection**, in collaboration with SoundThinking Inc., since the program's launch by the Springfield Police Department under Chief Scarlett's leadership in October 2022.

What's New in 2024:

- **Ethan Posey**, Director of Community Relations, will oversee the logistics of the program, ensuring its smooth operation and continued success.
- **Enhanced community engagement** through expanded opportunities for residents to voice concerns and collaborate with various City departments at events.
- **Zone Managers and Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs)** will take on active roles in identifying and addressing neighborhood-specific challenges, serving as key liaisons between



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residents and City Hall.

- **Neighborhood clean-ups and door-to-door work** will remain a priority, with crews from the Office of Public Works and zone managers focusing on proactively addressing blight and maintaining cleaner, safer neighborhoods.

Mayor Buscher's commitment to blight remediation and public safety remains a cornerstone of the BUILD Springfield program. With this initiative, the City aims to build sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant communities for all Springfield residents.

For more information about the BUILD Springfield program, www.build.springfield.il.us/ or contact the Community Relations Office at (217) 789-2270.