Media Release

Contact: Communications Office 815-724-3720 pcthomasp@jolietcity.org

July 1, 2014

CITY OF JOLIET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

The City of Joliet will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 6:00 PM in the Planning Conference Room, City Hall, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432. The Joliet City Hall and Planning Conference Room are accessible to persons with physical disabilities. If special arrangements need to be made to accommodate citizens in order for them to participate in the public hearing, please call Mr. Alfredo Melesio, Director, Neighborhood Services Division, City of Joliet, at (815) 724-4100 to make those arrangements, or for the hearing impaired call 711.

The purpose of this public hearing is to gather information for the City’s FY 2015-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan and the FY 2015 Annual Action Plan which the City must submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Funds and the HOME Investment Partnership Program. Additionally, the City is conducting a survey to identify residents' needs in the community and for input on how the residents would like to see funds under the CDBG and HOME Programs spent. A link to the survey can be found on the City of Joliet's home page at www.cityofjoliet.info.

The City of Joliet anticipates, based on last fiscal year’s allocation, that it will receive an estimated CDBG entitlement grant in the amount of approximately  $750,000 and $430,000 in HOME funds for FY 2015. These funding levels are contingent upon the final approval of the Federal Budget for FY 2015. In order to receive those funds, the City of Joliet must prepare a Five Year Consolidated Plan and a One Year Annual Action Plan for the use of the CDBG and HOME funds. At least 70% of the CDBG funds must benefit low and moderate-income persons living in the City of Joliet. In preparing its CDBG and HOME application the City intends to afford citizens, local agencies, and interested parties the opportunity to become involved in the planning process.

The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the CDBG program:

Acquisition of property; disposition costs; improvements to public facilities, including the removal of architectural barriers; demolition and environmental clean-up; public services that are new or a quantifiable increase in the level of service; interim assistance; relocation payments for persons displaced as a result of a CDBG activity; rehabilitation of houses; code enforcement; special economic development activities; special activities undertaken by a community based development organization; home ownership assistance for purchase; planning; environmental; program administration; audit; and other miscellaneous activities.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the needs of the City of Joliet and the use of CDBG and HOME funds to address those needs over the next five (5) years. Written comments may be addressed to Mr. Alfredo Melesio, Neighborhood Services Division Director, City of Joliet, 150 W. Jefferson Street, First Floor, South Wing, Joliet, IL 60432 or ameles@jolietcity.org.

James D. Hock
City Manager