



ICON 2021

Year in Review

- In late February Bruce Rushton attended an ICON Problem Property Committee meeting via zoom and participated on a on the record discussion about problem properties n Springfield.
- Bruce authored two articles in the Illinois Times the first one dated February 25-March 3, with the front-page title “Blight Fight Springfield battles neighborhood scourges”. Carol and George were quoted in this article as ICON PPC members.
- The second article “Code Violations Pile up City slow to act” Illinois Times March 4-March 10.
- In the Illinois Times March 11-17, Bill wrote a printed letter to the IT thanking Bruce for highlighting Springfield’s problem with problem properties.
- In late May, Jacob Emersion From channel 20 News contacted Bill in regards to asking for an interview on dilapidated properties in Springfield. At the time, Bill told him that the ICON PPC was totally focused on Garbage. Bill did send him an email giving him a history of the ICON PPC.
- In June or July Jordan Elder from channel 20 News called Bill and they had a long discussion about the dilapidated properties she and Jacob were seeing in Springfield and the difficult times they were both having in getting any information from the city using FOIA requests.
- Bill invited Jordan to attend a off the record PPC meeting and she attended two.
- This is when Bill sent her an email detailing the vacant building registry and the city’s lack of keeping this as required by city ordinance. She went on to do extensive coverage of the city’s lack of compliance with the vacant building registry.
- During the course of the summer, Bill was receiving several requests from channel 20 News for interviews in which he turned down or referred to someone else from ICON.
- Thanks to Jill’s relationship with city leaders ICON was invited to be interviewed and included to the Harvard Fellow’s study of problem properties in Springfield.
- Jill was also instrumental in setting up meetings with Vice Mayor Kathleen Alcorn, Public Works personnel and Treasurer Misty Buscher.
- In the August 19-26 Illinois Times Polly penned an opinion “Another shooting in my neighborhood”.
- In October, Jill and George had a meeting with Corporation Counsel, Assistant Corporation Counsel and Mayor Langfelder in regards to Administrative Court procedures.
- In November, ICON was invited to sit on a Pop-up Party Task Force.
- At the same time, ICON was invited to sit on discussions with the Springfield Realtor Association in regards to ordinance 2021-390, which was changing the time a vacant building could be on the vacant building registry.
- In November when ordinance 2021-390 was passed by the city council, Polly gave an elegant unscripted speech to the city council emphasizing the importance of the vacant building registry being properly maintained.



- In late November Bill spoke to the city council on two different occasions about the following issues:
 - Popup parties in Springfield
 - Ordinance 2021-390
 - Lack of public input to city ordinance amendments
- In December, ICON hosted their virtual annual meeting and provided a bullet point presentation on the outcome of research conducted over the summer about Problem Properties, Garbage, Large Item Pick-Up, and Administrative Court.
- As part of the ICON virtual annual meeting ICON hosted and presented carpool videos “Diamonds and Dreams”, which was participated by Alderwoman DiCenso, Alderwoman Conley, Alderman Donelan, and Alderwoman Purchase.
- ICON presented their 2021 annual Good Neighbor Awards to the following individuals and the category they were chosen:
 - Treasurer Misty Buscher-Public Service
 - Lynn Puls-Individual
 - Café Moxo-Business
 - Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln-Community Organization
- Guest Speakers for 2021 included:
 - Jan Von Qualen chair Urban Forestry Commission
 - Mike Jackson Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
 - Jane Ford Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Next-10

It was a busy year for ICON in 2021 and the ICON Steering Committee is dedicated to continue their hard work in 2022 in order to make Springfield a cleaner, greener, and healthier place to live.