

**Willowbrook / Burr Ridge
Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

WILLOWBROOK STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS

Mayor Frank A. Trilla

January 9, 2019

Slide Number

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- 1) Thanks to the chamber board and all members for allowing me this opportunity to share the state of the Village of Willowbrook today.

- 2) First, once again, I would like to recognize the current Village Board for the Village of Willowbrook. I'm fortunate to have a Board that has been extremely supportive and thoroughly involved in all aspects of the Village. We have three (3) trustee seats open for this coming election on April 2nd, and five (5) candidates running, three (3) of which are incumbents.

- 3) I thought I would just jump right into covering the issue which, unfortunately, has had us in the news throughout the latter half of last year, and still continues...the Sterigenics environmental issue. I'll provide a brief summary of events in the following slides.

4) On August 22, 2018, we received a telephone call at the Village Hall from the USEPA advising that a report was going to be published on their website in about an hour. The report was drafted by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and included a health risk assessment for residents and workers located in proximity to the Sterigenics facilities in Willowbrook. The air monitoring data used in the report was based on one (1) single round of testing conducted by the USEPA in May of 2018. We were not previously aware of that monitoring.

5) There are two (2) Sterigenics facilities in Willowbrook. One opened in 1984 and the other in 1999. Each facility uses ethylene oxide gas to sterilize materials such as medical equipment and devices, and food, such as spices. Both facilities operate under permits issued to them by the IEPA.

6) After the Public Forum meeting in August, we felt there were just more questions and not a lot of answers. So, we decided to form our own Task Force of experts to further research the information and obtain our own answers to important questions such as, are we safe? At considerable expense, we hired a well-known environmental law firm, a very experienced Board-certified toxicologist, a large testing consultant firm specializing in chemical engineering, and an emissions control consultant who happens to also be a long-time Village resident. Trustee Gayle Neal was appointed as the coordinator of the Task Force

7) Through the work of the Task Force, we learned many important facts. One of which is that ethylene oxide, or EtO, is widely used in the production of many everyday products.

8) The Task Force was able to compile information to further identify this as a nationwide problem. This exhibit shows levels of EtO emissions throughout the country by source.

9) This overlay shows the various plants that emit EtO throughout the country, including 3M (take a look at Minnesota), Sterigenics, Union Carbide, and Vantage.

10) With the help of the Task Force, we were able to put our arguments together to demand that additional air monitoring tests be performed by the USEPA, since it is not appropriate to perform a health risk assessment based on one-round of air testing. Since the USEPA will not conduct indoor air testing, our Task Force recommended that the Village do so. On September 24th we accepted a proposal from GHD to perform our own round of indoor/outdoor testing. We commend Burr Ridge for deciding to also conduct their own testing to help determine what levels we were all experiencing. And finally, on September 28th, the USEPA committed to performing additional ambient air testing for a 3-month duration.

11) Willowbrook's test results came back on December 11th and were published on our website that afternoon. Although the

levels in our test, and also Burr Ridge's test, came back relatively low. The tests did confirm the presence of EtO in almost all samples taken. Tested levels published by the USEPA on December 7th, revealed several high readings on November 19th. This disparity in test results led me to conclude that the emissions profile of these facilities is not well understood, by anyone -- even by the EPA.

12) As a result, on December 11th, I demanded in writing on behalf of the community that the Illinois Attorney General's Office and DuPage County State's Attorney's Office take immediate action to close the facilities. Both agencies had already filed a lawsuit against Sterigenics in Circuit Court, which we joined, but I was asking for immediate action to close these plants. By state law, only the AG's Office and the State's Attorney's Office have that authority. We continue to urge these agencies to seek a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to close the facilities, and we hope others in this room will do the same. So, that's where we are currently with the Sterigenics issue. Willowbrook will likely perform some

additional air monitoring for a longer duration – 30 days – to further try to identify the daily fluctuations and provide additional evidence to the AG and State’s Attorney’s Office.

13) In spite of the Sterigenics issue monopolizing all of our time in the second half of 2018, we were still able to complete some planned projects and further some of our goals and objectives for the year. I’d like to highlight some of our accomplishments.

14) Starting off, we began Phase III of our Master Facilities Plan. In this first year of the project, we went out to bid on exterior façade renovations, a new roof, and new roof-top HVAC mechanical units to renovate the third and final building within our municipal campus. Once completed, this building will become a Community Resource Center (CRC) and also contain the Village Board Council Chambers. I would like to ultimately dedicate this building as “Founder’s Hall” to commemorate everyone in the Village’s past that gave effort to establish this community.

15) This picture shows the construction of the new façade going up, which is designed to match the other 2 buildings in the municipal complex, along with the partial demolition of the old stone veneer from the late 70s.

16) Here's some additional façade work occurring on the north side of the building.

17) We also appointed a new police chief, Robert Schaller. Bob was appointed Chief on March 12, 2018. He was a former Willowbrook patrol officer, where he also served a special assignment on the DEA Task Force, and was later promoted to deputy chief of police. He has been a member of the Willowbrook police department for 23 years. He's going to do a great job, and he's already hit the ground running. In the relatively short time he's been chief we have implemented a Village-wide public safety communications platform called "Nixle" which will provide relevant information covering all issues of public safety. In addition, we've started an enhanced

Truck Enforcement Program to target overweight vehicles.

These vehicles not only cause a great deal of damage to our roads, but also pose a safety hazard to the motoring public.

Please help welcome Chief Schaller to the community.

18) In June, we held a dedication celebration for our newly renovated park – Willow Pond Park, which was actually completed in late October 2017. This was close to a \$1 M project, but \$400,000 was reimbursed to us through a state OSLSAD grant.

19) Here's a short drone video taken on June 9th, the day of the dedication. It's about 3 minutes long.

20) This project is not very well known, but it was an involved study and an important one for the future of Willowbrook. We completed a Route 83 Corridor Study and adopted a Final Plan, which was sent to IDOT, state agencies, and state elected officials. The Plan, we hope, will help guide the design of the eventual widening of Route 83 through town. At this time, I

would like to acknowledge the volunteer members of the Steering Committee for this project:

- Mr. Mark Astrella
- Mr. Al Meyer
- Mr. John Pecora
- Ms. Nancy Baker
- Dr. Glen Batson
- Mr. Walt Fornek
- Trustee Sue Berglund
- Mr. David Froberg
- Trustee Gayle Neal
- Ms. Karen Pytel
- Mr. Neil McNamara

21) This exhibit shows the boundaries and different zones as part of the extensive planning performed for this study.

22) We applied for and received a \$9,000 grant from ComEd which was used to purchase and install new solar powered LED stop signs, located near schools and at several other intersections where increased awareness is necessary.

23) And at long last, the Pete's Fresh Market development opened for business on November 1, 2018. The other anchor tenant, Ulta, opened shortly thereafter on November 7th.

24) Here are several current pictures of the development. It's a really busy place now, which is good.

- 25) Construction of the Compass Arena is underway. Two (2) indoor soccer fields, restaurant, bar, golf simulators, events.
- 26) The Willowbrook Ice Area also opened on November 1, 2018. Here's a current picture of the inside – being used.
- 27) The Marshalls Store, which took part of the former Sports Authority space, opened on October 3rd.
- 28) The Skechers Store, which took the remainder of the former Sports Authority space, opened on December 7th.
- 29) We held our 4th annual 5K and Children's Fun Run on May 6th. Attendance is still increasing for this event, which is good, and we were able to raise considerable money for charity.
- 30) Here are some pictures. And a big "thank you" to our sponsors, which made the event possible. Once again, the Chamber was the presenting sponsor for the event.

31) Here's a short drone video of the event. It's about 2 minutes long.

32) I also want to briefly mention two (2) finance awards that we continue to be awarded from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). We received our 16th consecutive **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for FY 2017/18, and our 29th consecutive **Excellence in Financial Reporting Award** for FY 2016/17. We also maintained our AAA rating through Standard & Poor's, which we found out is only held by a total of 9 non-home rule municipalities in the state. Kudos in large part to our finance director, Carrie Dittman.

33) On behalf of the Village, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and for your continued support. I'm proud of the accomplishments we've made this year, and we'll continue to do good things in the coming year. I'm very thankful to the Board of Trustees and the community for the support

they've given me. I'm always available to hear your comments and I promise to respond to all inquiries. Thank you.