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Elected Officials

Gary Manier, Mayor
Bob Brucks, Aldermen
Mike Brownfield, Aldermen
Carol Moss, Aldermen
Tyler Gee, Aldermen
Brian Butler, Aldermen
Dave Dingleline, Aldermen
Jim Gee, Aldermen
Travis Maxwell, Aldermen
Pat Brown, City Clerk
Ellen Dingleline, Treasurer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2016

City Establishes Washington Square Historic District

On April 4th, the Washington City Council approved the creation of a local historic district that encompasses 29 properties around the downtown Square.

The Washington Square has a rich history dating back to the 1830s. In addition to serving as the location of Washington's first businesses, the Square has held numerous community events over the years. The center of the Square was the location of the City's first public well and also featured a bandstand before dedication of a lighted water fountain in 1963. Many buildings in and around the Square are more than 100 years old, including two that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"This designation demonstrates our commitment to preserving Washington's unique history," explained Mayor Manier.

At Monday's meeting, the City Council also approved building design guidelines for historic district properties. The intent of the design guidelines is to assist property owners that wish to either renovate an existing building or to construct a new building. Future improvements should complement the unique character of the Square for the benefit of current and future generations. Prior to the City Council's action, square property owners expressed their support for the historic designation. Some properties within the district may now qualify for historic tax credits on eligible improvements if a statewide commercial tax credit program becomes available.

"Establishing the district and design guidelines will help protect the investments made by current property owners. We all benefit from preserving the historic and sentimental value the Square provides our community," stated Mayor Manier.

The entire historic district is located within the City's existing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. TIF is a method of financing improvements within a certain area. Historic district property owners interested in the City's TIF program should contact Jon Oliphant, Director of Planning & Development, at joliphant@ci.washington.il.us or 309-444-1135.

Washington, Illinois

The City of Washington is a vibrant community offering a high quality of life supported by excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, diverse parks and recreation offerings, and a resident population motivated by volunteerism and community involvement. Our traditions include our historic downtown square, service oriented businesses, and family friendly amenities. For more information, visit www.ci.washington.il.us

