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# CITY OF OTTAWA

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 24, 2007

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### **City Seeks Public Comment on Applications to USEPA for Brownfields Grant Funding**

Ottawa, IL – The City of Ottawa is preparing two applications for Community-wide Brownfields Assessment funding from US EPA. Brownfields are properties where redevelopment may be complicated by the potential presence of contamination. The City is applying for two grants worth \$200,000 each.

If awarded, these grants will allow the City to assess priority redevelopment sites in Ottawa and help facilitate redevelopment. US EPA grant funding is critical to moving forward redevelopment of the Jordan Block and other areas, including the Marquette Street Corridor.

The *Ottawa Brownfields Redevelopment Prioritization Strategy*, adopted in October 2006, provides the framework for the City's Brownfields Initiative. Additionally, the City's Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee oversees this initiative.

The public is encouraged to review the City's draft applications online at [www.cityofottawa.org/zoninggov.htm](http://www.cityofottawa.org/zoninggov.htm); in-person at City Hall, 301 West Madison Street; or in-person at Reddick Library, 1010 Canal Street. The applications will be available Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Comments and questions will be received by Community Development Director David Noble at (815) 433-0161. Noble will also receive comments in person at City Hall from October 1 – 3.

Mayor Eschbach is encouraging any interested residents, business or community groups to write him a letter in support of the applications. The Mayor will include these letters in the final applications, which will be submitted to US EPA on October 12, 2007. Letters must be received by October 7<sup>th</sup> to be included with the application. Letters may be mailed or delivered to City Hall or faxed to (815) 433-2344. When reviewing applications for this competitive program, US EPA places significant value on the extent of community support evident in the application.