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Dear Residents,

On April 7th, an important election referendum will take place that asks every Crestwood resident to consider putting in place a 1% sales tax to pay for critical infrastructure repairs throughout our village.

The fact that these repairs must be made is indisputable. Everyone in government agrees the repairs must be made and that they will cost millions of dollars. The only question we have left to decide is how to raise that money.

As it stands, we have three choices:

1. We can raise property taxes on everyone in the village.
2. We can assign a special assessment on the property taxes of citizens within those neighborhoods where the infrastructure repairs will take place.
3. We can instill a 1% sales tax that will generate revenue from non-residents and residents who shop and dine in Crestwood.

I feel that the fairest method to raise this money is the third option of instituting a 1% sales tax. The reason I feel this way is because non residents who visit our town benefit just as much as residents from the infrastructure and village services we provide to them while they are here.

Crestwood residents pay higher sales tax when they visit every surrounding community to shop or dine and it is only fair and reasonable that we also collect a small sales tax from visitors who shop and dine in our town.

In order to lessen the impact of a sales tax on our residents and businesses as much as possible, we have tied a property tax rebate provision to the imposition of the sales tax. This means that every residential and commercial owner of property in

Crestwood will receive a rebate of property tax to help them offset any additional sales tax expense they incur while shopping and dining in Crestwood.

The minimum amount of money that will be rebated to village property tax payers will be \$300 and will increase as sales tax revenues permit. That means that if a resident purchased as much as \$30,000 per year from Crestwood shops and restaurants, they would not pay one penny in additional taxes through the proposed sales tax.

This plan to offset sales tax with a property tax rebate is not unique. Other municipalities do this, including Orland Park and Chicago Ridge.

Everyone on your Village board supports the imposition of the sales tax and everyone has voted in favor of it. But it still requires that the voters of Crestwood also approve this measure.

April 7th, you will be asked to vote for this measure and I am asking you to take the time to vote and to vote in favor of this very important referendum that will provide us with the funds needed to repair our sewer lines, water lines and other critical infrastructure.

Thank you for your support of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lou Presta