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The Park District of Franklin Park is investing in solar panels for the Community Center, Franklin Park Ice Arena, and Centre at North Park. This initiative represents a responsible and strategic use of tax dollars, aimed at generating long-term energy savings while powering our facilities with clean, renewable energy.

The publicly bid project totals \$1,332,446 and is estimated to receive over \$1,000,000 in tax credits and rebates. These include a \$500,000 federal tax credit, \$159,299 from ComEd inverter rebates, and \$554,057 in Illinois Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), which will be paid in annual installments of \$79,151 over the next seven years. Given the long-term financial benefits, the Park District chose to purchase the panels outright instead of entering into a Power Purchase Agreement. Under a Power Purchase Agreement, a third party would pay for the equipment and installation, then negotiate a more favorable energy rate with the owner. By purchasing the panels, the district maintains full ownership and receives all associated savings and incentives.

With projected savings of \$76,000 in the first year alone, an amount expected to increase annually, the solar panel investment is projected to pay for itself within four years. Over the next 20 years, the Park District anticipates saving approximately \$1,900,000 in energy costs. The solar panels, Q Peak Duo XL-G11S, are among the highest quality available. They are expected to last 20 to 25 years. Once installed, the panels will significantly reduce each facility's dependency on the electrical grid:

- Franklin Park Ice Arena by 42%
- Centre at North Park by 43%
- Community Center by 51%

A total of 1,080 solar panels and 13 inverters will be installed across the three facilities. The Franklin Park Ice Arena will have 665 panels and 6 inverters, the Centre at North Park will have 178 panels and 3 inverters, and the Community Center will have 237 panels and 4 inverters. General Energy Corporation of Schaumburg, Illinois, is serving as the Construction Manager for the project. T Construction will install the AC components, and Ecoelectric will handle the DC side.

We are excited to continue with this project and look forward to the many benefits it will bring:

- **District Savings:** The solar panels will reduce the district's energy bills, allowing for more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The money saved can be reinvested into community spaces and programs that directly benefit residents.
- **Environmental Impact:** By decreasing reliance on traditional energy sources, the district is lowering its carbon footprint and advancing our sustainability goals, contributing to a cleaner, greener Franklin Park.
- **Educational Opportunities:** The installation presents valuable opportunities to engage residents, especially the youth, in learning about renewable energy, sustainability, and energy conservation. These efforts can spark long-term interest in green technology and support educational programming in local schools.

Sincerely,

Dan LoCascio
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