



Citizens for Clarendon Hills

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Large Citizens Group Opposed to Home Rule Power Organizes in Clarendon Hills

CLARENDON HILLS, Ill. Jan. 9, 2012 – An organized political-action coalition of Clarendon Hills residents advocating greater accountability and responsibility in local government emerged publicly over the weekend, putting in its initial sights the defeat of the March 20, 2012 referendum seeking voter approval for “Home Rule” status for the Village of Clarendon Hills.

The group – known as Citizens for Clarendon Hills (www.citizensforch.com) – held a well-attended formal kickoff, information and fundraising session at a private Clarendon Hills residence on Jan. 7.

In coming days, the group plans to continue to sign up members, raise funds and present citizens with information regarding its concerns with Home Rule status and the Village’s financial health. At the meeting and on its website, Citizens for Clarendon Hills cites several of its primary positions, including:

- Clarendon Hills’ budget is currently healthy, maintaining a cash reserve of 40% of its annual revenue and a AAA bond rating;
- The group believes that the Village’s depiction of *potential* future fiscal challenges as a rationale for Home Rule is overstated, and can be managed with relatively minor budget measures that are much less drastic than Home Rule;
- Home Rule power allows communities to impose new property taxes, incur debt, and levy a host of other local taxes that are currently subject to state-mandated caps, without referenda.
- The group believes the Village is using Home Rule as a panacea to avoid making sometimes difficult, yet necessary budgetary decisions to maintain the Village’s strong financial position.

Citizens for Clarendon Hills is a group of Village residents from throughout the community, with diverse backgrounds and interests. We share a common interest in protecting the future of our Village. *Citizens for Clarendon Hills* seeks tax accountability, preventing government over-reach, reining in government, preventing abuse of government, and coming up with progressive, positive solutions. We favor lower taxes, less regulation and smart growth. We support progressive development tailored to secure the longevity of the Village while preserving its history and sense of community. We believe in the right of all taxpayers to demand that dollars are allocated in a completely transparent manner and that elected officials are held accountable for their fiduciary responsibility.