

Update Rock Island News Release

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Update Rock Island is a segment at City Council meetings given by Mayor Dennis Pauley focusing on news in Rock Island. The video segment from the meeting is available on the home page of www.rigov.org and provides more information on the topics listed.

Ya Maka My Weekend is August 14 & 15

The District presents the eighteenth annual Ya Maka My Weekend Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 2009. The event starts at 5 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday. Ya Maka My Weekend features two days of reggae, steel drums, and tropical music on two stages. Enjoy authentic Caribbean food and shop the open air marketplace. Kids can make island crafts. Play in the sand beach and dig for buried treasure or make your own sand sculpture. With palm trees, tiki torches, and beach balls, it will feel just like a trip to the islands. For more information visit www.ridistrict.com and www.yamakamyweekend.com or call 309.788.6311.

Human Rights Commission Hosts Public Forum

Rock Island's Human Rights Commission will sponsor a public forum on human rights in the city on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 630 9th Street. The commission is interested in hearing from Rock Island citizens on matters of human rights as they may affect employment, housing, finance/credit, public education, economic opportunity, and quality of life. [Click here](#) for more info

Budget Update

The City of Rock Island is in strong financial condition. When the 2009–2010 Budget was adopted, it was noted that revenue and expenses would be monitored closely to make sure that actual revenues would cover the planned level of spending. The June 2009 Financial Report showed projected revenue shortfalls in a number of areas in the General Fund. Municipal Utility Tax, State Income Tax, State Use Tax, Building Permits, and Interest Earnings are the areas of most concern. The shortfall currently projected in the General Fund is estimated to be \$1 million. City staff have provided ideas and the City Manager has identified budget cuts, vacant positions, fund transfers, and other ideas to address this problem including:

1. These actions will have some impacts of service, but no major changes in the levels of service provided to citizens.
2. While several vacant positions will remain unfilled, no layoffs of employees are included.
3. There is always risk that revenues will fall further or that an unanticipated expense will be required. However, at this point, these actions should be sufficient for the City to finish the fiscal year with a spending plan that stays within the projected revenue.