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## Illinois Policy Institute recognizes Park Ridge for transparency

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For the second consecutive year, the city of Park Ridge was named a Sunshine Award winner by the Illinois Policy Institute.

Park Ridge announced last week that it was recognized as 1 of only 72 taxing bodies in Illinois to meet the award qualifications. The Illinois Policy Institute conducts annual audits of local governments in Illinois grading them using a 10-point transparency checklist.

Based on the results of that audit, IPI determined that Park Ridge had the 14th highest score of all Illinois taxing bodies.

“Transparency of government is one of my highest priorities,” City Manager Shawn Hamilton said. “I am extremely proud that Park Ridge is once again a recipient of this award, and will continue to enhance our reporting capabilities to strive for a perfect score.”

In the fall of 2013, late Mayor Dave Schmidt asked Hamilton to prioritize completion of the requirements to qualify for the award. Those requirements are recommended from the IPI’s 10-point transparency checklist.

In March of 2014, Park Ridge earned its first-ever Sunshine Award with a score of 86 percent. The city improved on those results in 2015 with a score of 94.8 percent.

“Increased transparency continues to be a goal of this city council,” Acting Mayor Marty Maloney said. “I applaud the efforts of city staff and am pleased that our efforts over the past few years are continuing to be recognized.

Maloney added that he expects the city to continue its efforts towards increased transparency. For more information on the Sunshine Award, visit [www.illinoispolicy.org](http://www.illinoispolicy.org).

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