



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

**Media Release**

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April 13, 2018

## **City of Joliet Awarded Grant Funding for Study of Prison**

The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office has announced that the City of Joliet will receive approximately \$40,000 in grant funding to complete a Conditions Analysis and Structural Assessment on all structures within the 16-acre western compound of the former Joliet Correctional Center. Grant funding is being awarded through the State of Illinois Certified Local Government Matching Grant program. The grant award amount will cover 80% of the total project costs with the City funding the remaining 20% as its local match. The City plans to issue a Request for Proposals to obtain a consultant to conduct this assessment in the late spring.

The former Joliet Correctional Center, also known as the Joliet Prison, operated for 144 years until the State closed its doors in 2002. The buildings within the Prison walls have quickly deteriorated since the facility's closure in 2002; however, many of the buildings retain a high level of architectural integrity. In December of 2017 the City of Joliet secured a five-year lease agreement with the Illinois Department of Corrections and Illinois Department of Central Management Services that provides the City with control, oversight and temporary usage of the Prison. Now having full access to the site, the City intends to complete a full conditions and structural assessment of its structures, exteriors, interiors, mechanical systems and electrical systems.

"This assessment will help the City and interested parties to determine the condition of each building as well as the cost to stabilize, repair, rehab, and/or demolish buildings," commented Jayne Bernhard, city planner and staff liaison to the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission. "The assessment will contribute to the identification of potential sustainable and appropriate reuses for the various structures at this site."

Through partnering with the Collins Street Task Force and Joliet Area Historical Museum, the City has made significant progress in its efforts to stabilize, preserve and promote this significant historic resource. Recent activities has included efforts to cleanup up brush and debris as well as catalog artifacts through in-kind donations from local trade unions, businesses and community volunteers. The City is also partnering with the Museum and the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry on a grand opening event at the prison in late August.

### **Media Inquiries:**

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**David A. Hales**

## **City Manager**

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois and home to over 149,000 residents. Joliet sits 35 miles southwest of Chicago and is easily accessible by auto, train and bus; making it the perfect place to live, work and play. Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info) or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet's Media Releases are always available on our website.