

Item #7:

Village Trustee Borys

Task Force On Referendum & Non-thoroughfare Road Financing

David Lothspeich

From: David Lothspeich
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 1:53 PM
To: David Lothspeich
Subject: Referendum Information Sheet
Attachments: Village of Long Grove Referendum Information Sheet.pdf

Village President Underwood and Trustees,

FYI, the attached referendum informational sheet was sent to the HOA email distribution list earlier today. A second message will be sent out via the Connect CTY email and text list later this afternoon. The Village Bridge Newsletter, which includes an article that references the Information Sheet will be sent out tomorrow (Fri).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Dave



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE LONG GROVE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE REFERENDUM MARCH 18, 2014 VOTE

History.

The Village of Long Grove was incorporated in 1956 to preserve the semi-rural charm, 3-acre lot sizes and to avoid becoming a "developers town". The Village was incorporated without a Village property tax and as a non-home rule municipality and continues to not levy a property tax.

Since 1999 the Long Grove Comprehensive Plan has included the following Goals & Objectives:

- *"Maintain no Village property tax."*
- *"Village Policy to encourage private roads and to only accept dedicated roads under special circumstances. A reduction in length of dedicated roads will assist the Village in maintaining its no tax levy policy."*
- *"Annual Budget should be based upon sources of income which remain relatively stable."*

Challenge.

On average, the Village of Long Grove's total annual budget is roughly \$3.0 Million with approximately \$1.3 Million available for maintaining its infrastructure. Long Grove has roughly 30 miles of public roadway and the funding level necessary to properly maintain the Village's infrastructure, including roads, is roughly \$3.2 Million.

The Village has roughly \$500,000 for annual road paving and repairs, which is not sufficient to keep up with deteriorating road conditions and maintaining the Village roadways system to acceptable standards. Due to higher than expected revenues from new home building permits, the Village Board increased the road paving budget to \$750,000 this year and was able to repave nearly 1.3 miles of road. The number of new home building permits is anticipated to decline significantly after this year and the funds available to maintain the Village infrastructure are expected to be reduced for the foreseeable future.

Significant cost savings are achieved by making repairs to roads before they deteriorate to the point of requiring full reconstruction. The cost to repair a road ranges from approximately \$600,000 per mile for pavement overlay to approximately \$1.85 million per mile for full pavement reconstruction.

A standard to repave every ten (10) years equates to Long Grove repaving roughly 3.0 miles of road each year and requires nearly \$18 million in funding. Based upon having roughly \$500,000 per year for road paving and repairs and roughly \$1.8 Million to repave each road every ten years, there is currently an annual funding gap of \$1.2 Million. Until this funding gap is resolved, the Village will continue to experience deteriorating public roads.

Proposed Solutions:

During the past two years, the Village Board discussed this issue during their regular bi-monthly board meetings and encouraged all residents to participate in these discussions during four (4) Town Hall Meetings. After careful consideration of many possible options, the Village President and Village Board decided upon the following two solutions:

- (1). **Reduce Length Of Publically Funded Roads.** As suggested in the Long Grove Comprehensive Plan, the Village Board identified thoroughfare roads based upon the long-standing definition of public roads as being a road that connects two other public roads. All other public roads remaining were identified as non-thoroughfare roads and to be funded by the residents that are primarily served by these roads. The length of non-thoroughfare roads is approximately 13 miles, reducing the Village infrastructure funding gap by \$1.3M (from \$1.8M to \$400,000). The Village will be working with each subdivision that has public non-thoroughfare roads to discuss funding options, including establishing Special Service Areas (SSA's) or other funding mechanisms.
- (2). **Referendum For A Village Property Tax Dedicated To The Funding Of Capital Infrastructure.** Through encouraging appropriate commercial development (sales tax) and controlling expenses, the Village continues to pursue all other means necessary to properly maintain its limited infrastructure and avoid a property tax. The plan to reduce the length of publically funded roads from 29 to 16 miles was approved in an effort to maintain its no tax levy policy, however, a short-term funding gap of roughly \$400,000 has been identified (reduced from \$1.8 M). The Village is requesting resident approval of a property tax referendum that will automatically expire after 10 years and cannot be extended. In the interim, the Village will continue to support additional new revenue funding sources (new sales tax producing developments) to eliminate the need for a property tax after ten (10) years. If after ten (10) years the Village Board determines that a funding gap remains and that a property tax is still necessary, the Long Grove residents would need to be asked to vote on an entirely new referendum.

Infrastructure Property Tax Referendum To Establish An Annual Property Tax At A Rate Of 0.068:

- \$166 Average (\$750K Market Value Home) Annual Property Tax.
- 10-Year Term (Cannot Be Extended Without Another Referendum).
- Restricted To Spending On Capital Infrastructure.

Aren't My Property Taxes Already Used For The Village's Operations?

Long Grove residents' tax dollars support eight (8) separate governmental agencies that serve our community. The Village of Long Grove currently does not levy a property tax and therefore does not receive any of the property taxes paid through the homeowner's real estate tax bill. The Village is currently funded by other sources such as: building permit fees; sales tax, telecommunications tax; motor fuel tax, etc.

How Much Would This Capital Infrastructure Referendum Cost Me?

The proposed property tax rate is 0.068. For a home with an average market value of \$750,000 and a \$21,358 annual property tax bill, the Village anticipates a property tax increase of \$166 per year. While the proposed referendum represents a significant increase in the property tax rate, if approved, the Village of Long Grove would receive 0.77% of the total property taxes.

Taxing Body	Rate	% Of Tax Bill	\$ Amount
KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL DIST #96 + PENSION	3.680	41.78%	\$8,993
STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #125 + PENSION	2.751	31.23%	\$6,723
LONG GROVE FIRE PROT DIST + PENSION	0.766	8.70%	\$1,872
COUNTY OF LAKE + PENSION	0.627	7.12%	\$1,532
VERNON AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIST + PENSION	0.296	3.36%	\$723
COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY #532	0.272	3.09%	\$665
FOREST PRESERVE + PENSION	0.212	2.41%	\$518
TOWNSHIP OF VERNON + GRAVEL + ROAD & BRIDGE	0.136	1.54%	\$332
VIL OF LONG GROVE INFRASTRUCTURE	0.068	0.77%	\$166
Totals	8.808	100.0%	\$21,524

What Will Happen If The Referendum Is Not Approved?

If the referendum is approved, the Residents will begin paying this new tax in 2015 and the Village will receive these funds in the summer of 2015. The Village Board will have the option of paying for the infrastructure improvements on a "pay as you go" basis and/or issuing bonds to "advance" a portion of the funds necessary to expedite projects. If the property tax referendum fails, the Village will continue with the current annual road and infrastructure maintenance program utilizing existing funding sources and the condition of the roads will continue to deteriorate.

What Will The March 18, 2014 Referendum Question Look Like?

The wording of the referendum question, based upon Statute and various legal requirements, reads as follows:

Public Question On Property Tax For Capital Infrastructure

Shall the Village of Long Grove, Lake County, Illinois, be authorized to levy a new tax for general corporate purposes under 65 ILCS 5/8-3-1 for a capital infrastructure improvement, repair, and replacement fund in accordance with 65 ILCS 5/8-2-9.5, and have an additional tax of not more than 0.068% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein extended for such purposes for not more than 10 tax levy years?	YES _____	NO _____
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In connection with the foregoing public question, the following supplemental information is provided:

- (1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$0.00, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$381,109.00.
- (2) For the 2014 levy year, the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$23.09.
- (3) Based upon an average annual percentage increase (or decrease) in the market value of such property of 3.0%, the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against such property for the 2015 levy year is estimated to be \$23.78, and for the 2016 levy year is estimated to be \$24.50.
- (4) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for 2014 through 2023 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).

Further information is available under the "Village Referendum - Infrastructure Property Tax" Quicklinks Tab located on the left side of the Village's website www.longgrove.net.



THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

January 2014

ISSUE #1

Happy New Year

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

by Village President Angie Underwood

Little did I know, one year ago today, sitting at this same computer to write my candidate profile for the *Daily Herald*, the extent of the challenges and rewards that these past 12 months would bring! In an attempt to sum up the major issues that our Village faces today and in the year to come, I thought it would be interesting to revisit my stated "Top 3 Campaign Issues" and let you know what progress the Board has made to date.

Issue #1: Finding a Solution to the Current Funding Gap in Needed Road Repairs.

After four Town Hall meetings and years of study, analysis, and numerous board discussions, a decision was made in November to bring a referendum question to the voters on March 18th of this year. This would authorize a first-ever Village Property Tax for a period of ten years, not to be extended, to pay for repairs on thoroughfare roads only. The annual cost would average \$166 for a home valued at \$750,000. This tax would be restricted to spending on capital infrastructure. Adding further specificity, an ordinance was passed at the same time as the referendum authorization, which defined thoroughfare and non-thoroughfare roads. This companion policy states the intention of the Village Board to reduce the length of public roads, and assist the homeowners on non-thoroughfare roads in establishing Special Service Areas or other funding mechanisms. For more history and details on this decision, please read the Referendum Fact Sheet on our Village website.

http://www.longgrove.net/sites/default/files/Village%20of%20Long%20Grove%20Referendum%20Information%20Sheet_1.pdf

Obviously, asking voters to approve a new tax has produced some strong opinions from residents and has produced strong opinions among Board members as well. The Village Board has also read your emails and listened to your feedback during several well-attended public meetings this past fall. The members of the Board have made a difficult decision, given the current fiscal situation, not to defer this issue any longer. Now it is up to you, the residents, to decide whether or not to support the findings of the Board in squarely facing this issue. Please vote on March 18th. Your actions will help direct the Village to the next step in the process of resolving the funding gap.

Issue #2: Economic Development in the Village.

The Village remains keenly aware of the need to develop our remaining commercially zoned properties to bring in needed sales tax revenue. An Economic Development committee has been formed with members of the Long Grove Business and Community Partners (LGBCP), Village Board, Village Staff, and residents. This group has been meeting several times a month since June of 2013, with an eye toward working with both potential and existing property owners. Every effort is being made to work with local agencies to capitalize on available development opportunities and to bring Lake Michigan water to current and potential commercial properties.

Issue #3: Revitalization of the Historic Downtown.

Many of the privately owned properties in our downtown have changed ownership in the past year or are currently for sale. The Long Grove Confectionary has a new owner, as does the entire Mill Pond complex. I am optimistic that our new investors and business owners have a vision for their properties to prosper.

To address the high vacancy rates, the Village Board hired consultant Bridget Lane of Business Districts, Inc. to do an analysis of the downtown area. Her results were given in a presentation in November of this past year. Many of the merchants and owners were able to attend this and to hear her ideas and advice on what can work in today's economic climate.

Two suggestions that the Board has acted on as a result of Bridget's analysis include: increased enforcement of building and landscape maintenance by the property owners, and asking the Planning and Zoning Board to take a look at expanding the permitted uses within the downtown. This could bring into the downtown area a greater variety of services, stores, and other business uses desired by our residents. In addition to this, the Village Board has been petitioned by several merchants to take a look at rescinding the restriction on video gambling in Long Grove. This issue is sure to be studied in the months ahead.

Another topic for study is our covered bridge. The Board has engaged the services of consultants who will give us advice on the feasibility of repairing the historic supports and needed maintenance in the near term. Historic status is being considered, and a Village Historical Preservation Task Force soon will begin working to assess the entire downtown area from an historical and character preservation perspective. In addition to these many concerns, the Village continues to work with Lake County Department of Transportation on their planned improvements to Old McHenry Road and the addition of a traffic signal at the historic crossroads.

One Good Idea

I was asked a year ago for "one good idea that nobody is talking about yet." As I am a big fan and supporter of the many walking trails and pathways here in Long Grove, my idea involved a desire to see the pathway system expanded with further connections. This is a costly undertaking, and due to our financial constraints I wanted the Village to do some creative thinking to identify possible alternative ways of financing these needed improvements, and make it more of a priority. I am happy to say that due to the donation of a private easement and a partnership with the Long Grove Park District, the Board was able to improve and expand one trail system in the central part of our Village, connecting four different neighborhoods. On the south Schaeffer Road trail,

staff is currently working with the Lake County Forest Preserve District to create a link between their Buffalo Creek trail system and the Village pathway system, partially using grant monies. See what can happen with a little creative thinking?

The start of a new year is a good time to pause and reflect on our strengths, and project our hopes for the future. We are a community of involved neighbors and committed volunteers who greatly value the quality of life here in our Village. I am energized by the possibilities that 2014 may bring to Long Grove. Along with our staff and Board of Trustees, I look forward to interacting with you, the residents, as we work together to make decisions and changes that will directly affect the future success of our Village. And that is not just a campaign promise!

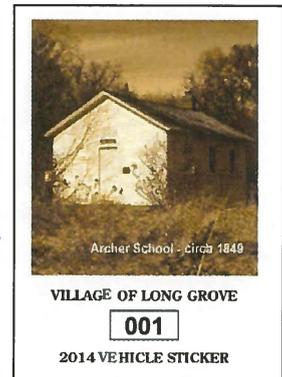
PUBLIC HEARING ON VIDEO GAMBLING SCHEDULED

A public hearing on amending the permitted use in the historic downtown and a request to amend the code to allow video gambling is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. as part of the Plan Commission Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. The hearing will be held at the Village Hall (3110 Old McHenry Road, behind Kildeer Countryside School).

VEHICLE STICKERS

The Village of Long Grove 2014 vehicle stickers are available at the Village Hall. The cost remains at \$10 a decal. While vehicle stickers are not mandatory, residents are encouraged to purchase one if they park in other suburbs or in Chicago where a local sticker is required and where tickets are issued if one is not displayed.

To receive your decal, you may send a check made payable to the Village of Long Grove; include your name, address and the number of vehicle stickers you would like. You can also stop by the Village Hall to pick up a decal. The Village Hall is located at 3110 Old McHenry Road, behind Kildeer Countryside School and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION

Anyone can be a victim of crime at anytime, anywhere. By taking preventive measures, oftentimes a crime can be prevented. One such example is with vehicle burglary. Typically offenders will target vehicles that they believe are easy to access. What measures can you take to dissuade an offender from burglarizing your vehicle? Here are a few simple suggestions:

1. Always lock your vehicle.
2. Take your keys with you.
3. Never hide a spare key in or on your vehicle.
4. Park in well-lit areas.
5. Hide or remove valuables from your vehicle.



6. Never leave your vehicle running unattended.

5th ANNUAL ICE MELTIN' BLUES

The fifth annual Ice Meltin' Blues Weekend will take place on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2. Enjoy some of Chicagoland's best Blues talents including Carl Weathersby; Demetria Taylor & The Blues Band, Billy Branch & The Sons of Blues, The Corey Dennison Blues Band, The Rockin' Johnny Blues Band, and more.

Look for "Blue Plate" specials in restaurants, such as "Bleu" Cheese Burgers, Martini "Blues" and "Blue" inspired desserts. Shops throughout the downtown will offer "Blue Light" shopper specials. Jake and Elwood will be in town handing out "Blues Bucks" for retail shopping, to those "lucky" enough to spot them.

For more information, go to www.visitlonggrove.com or call the Visitor's Center at 847-634-0888.

ODDS AND ENDS

LONG GROVE-KILDEER GARDEN CLUB

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 10 at Reed-Turner at 9:30 a.m. The theme is "Birdscaping" with guest speaker, Tim Joyce, Manager of "Wild Birds Unlimited" in Glenview, who will share his 30 years of experience developing the fine art of birdscaping. He will demonstrate how to bring our backyards alive with a great variety of birds throughout the year. If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact Gail at 847-566-9069.

The Garden Club welcomes new members. Meetings are held at Reed-Turner Woodlands on the second Monday of each month. Please call Gerri at 847-550-6292 if you wish to join or to seek additional information.

LONG GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Long Grove Historical Society will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary in 2014. Stay tuned for updates on programs planned throughout this year to commemorate this special occasion.

LONG GROVE ARTS & MUSIC COUNCIL

SUPPORT THE ARTS IN LONG GROVE!

The Long Grove Arts & Music Council, a 501c3 organization dedicated to bringing the arts to Long Grove, is almost finished booking the 2014 Summer Concerts and planning next year's Artist Guild calendar is currently underway. Corky Siegel and Howard Levy are teaming up for the opening concert, and that's just to warm things up.

Now entering its ninth season, the free LGAMC Summer Sunday Concerts continues to grow in attendance as people discover what many feel is one the best concert series in the entire Chicago area.

In addition to concerts, The Long Grove Arts & Music Council has expanded the outreach to local visual artists through The Long Grove Artists Guild. The Art Guild has hosted a variety of art invitationals. The very successful *Our Pets, Past & Present* was brought back for its second year. This art invitational showcased artists of all ages. In November, *A Place at the Table* invitational raised funds for the Vernon Township food pantry, in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Poets, writers, & artists (including an art therapist from as far as Joliet) participated in this meaningful event.

Evenings of poetry have been presented throughout the year by local writers & poets of The Long Grove Writers Group, also under the Long Grove Arts & Music Council's umbrella.

Such community outreach through the excellent summer concerts and the arts is the result of countless hours of a handful of dedicated volunteers in the Long Grove Arts & Music Council

along with the essential financial support of those who believe in the importance of the arts in our community.

Please make your generous donation today. Knowing the funds are there, in place, significantly help the dedicated volunteers of this 501c3 organization to continue their community outreach in bringing the arts to the Village of Long Grove.

Please visit our website to make your donation. Credit card payment available: lgamc.org.

For more information about the Long Grove Arts & Music Council: info@lgamc.org.

For more information about the Artists Guild: georgia@lgamc.org.

LONG GROVE ARTISTS GUILD

"SOMETHING ABOUT THE COLOR RED"

The color red evokes a range of emotions from anger to passion to love. In February, the Long Grove Artists Guild will present an art show exploring the many facets of red. The show, entitled "Something About the Color Red," will run from February 15 through March 15. Visual artwork in all media, styles and genre will be accepted in this art show.

Artists of all ages are invited to submit their artwork. Entries are due at the gallery, located at 329 Old McHenry Road (above the Potpourri shop), by February 1. Each artist may submit up to four pieces of artwork. The entry fee for an adult is \$20 for one submission; each additional entry is \$10. The entry fee for a youth is \$10 for one submission; each additional entry is \$5.

Artwork can be priced for sale. Twenty percent of each sale will be donated to LGAMC, a 501c3 organization. A portion of the entry fee proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association by the Long Grove Artists Guild & the Long Grove Arts & Music Council.

For more information, contact: georgiart@comcast.net, rhondapopko@gmail.com, or roshel@comcast.net.

A call for Artists from the Long Grove Artists Guild !

“Something About The Color Red”

The color red evokes a range of emotions from anger to passion to love. February is an excellent month to explore this color. Visual artwork in all media, styles and genre accepted in this art show.

Art Show: Feb 15 – March 15, 2014
Opening Reception 7-9PM Feb 15.

Art Entries must be gallery ready for display.
2d Art must have stretched hanging wire on back.

Entries & Fees (make checks payable to LGAMC) are to be delivered to the Long Grove Artists Guild Gallery* on Feb 1, 2014 (11AM -5PM)

Adult (18 and over): \$20 entry fee, \$10 each additional entry, limit 4 entries.
Youth (Under 18): \$10 entry fee, \$5. each additional entry, limit 4 entries.

Art work can be priced for sale. 20% of each sale donated to LGAMC, 501c3.
A portion of entry proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association by the Long Grove Artists Guild & the Long Grove Arts & Music Council.

Information: rhondapopko@gmail.com or roshel@comcast.net or georgiart@comcast.net

Name: _____

Adult(18 & older) _____ Youth(under 18, Please give your age) _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Title/s & Media:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

By signing this entry form, I agree to hold harmless the Long Grove Artists Guild and the Long Grove Arts & Music Council for my art while on display in the LGAG gallery.

Artist's signature: _____ Date: _____

*Long Grove Artists Guild Gallery is located in Bldg 21 at Fountain Square above the PotPourri Shop in Historic Long Grove, IL.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Long Grove Park District
February 3 7 pm

Reed-Turner Woodland

Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals
Public Hearing - Video Gambling
February 4 7 pm

Village Hall

Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee
February 5 7 pm

Village Hall

CPR/AED Class

February 6 6 pm—10 pm
For information, call Katie at 847-634-3143
\$15 *In-District Residents*

Long Grove Fire Dept.

\$30 *Out-of-District Residents*

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club
Guest Speaker: Tim Joyce - Birdscaping
February 10 9:30 am

Reed-Turner Woodland

Architectural Commission
February 10 7 pm

Village Hall

Board of Trustees
February 11 7 pm

Village Hall

Long Grove Historical Society Meeting
February 19 10 am

Historical Society Farmhouse

Board of Trustees
February 25 7 pm

Village Hall

David Lothspeich

From: connectsupport@blackboard.com
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:34 PM
To: David Lothspeich; Sherry Shlagman
Subject: Blackboard Connect Delivery Results: Village Referendum Information Sheet 1/23/2014 6:30:00 PM (CT)
Attachments: email.html

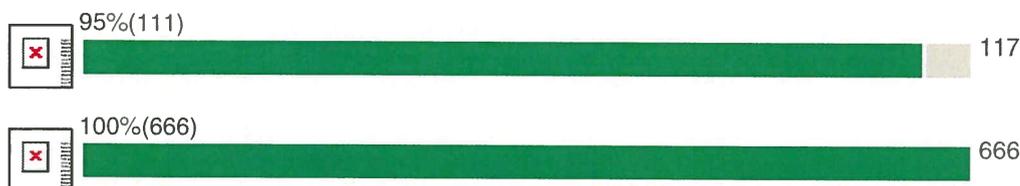


This message has been sent! Here is a summary of the delivery results. [Click here](#) to view more information online.

DELIVERY SUMMARY

Title	Village Referendum Information Sheet
Message Type	Outreach
Site	VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE
Scheduled By	David Lothspeich
Send Time	01/23/2014 06:30 PM (CT)
Text Completed	01/23/2014 06:32 PM (CT)
Email Completed	01/23/2014 06:31 PM (CT)
Selected Contacts	2475 Successfully reached 468 (19%)
Languages	English*

DEVICE DELIVERIES



DETAILED DELIVERY RESULTS



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E-mailed 100% (666)



Message From The Village of Long Grove. Important Information about the March 18th Long Grove Property Tax Referendum is available at www.longgrove.net.

Text Email Sent	95% (111)
Invalid Text Phone	5% (6)

For support, please call (866) 360-2155 or email connectsupport@blackboard.com



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David Lothspeich

From: VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE [email@blackboard.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:31 PM
To: David Lothspeich
Subject: Village Of Long Grove Referendum Informational Sheet



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE LONG GROVE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE REFERENDUM

MARCH 18, 2014 VOTE

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