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## Our Mission

This publication is committed to the journalistic principles of fair representation and free speech. Above all else, this publication will strive to fairly and accurately represent all sides of the issues that the editorial staff chooses to investigate. In maintaining an unwavering guarantee of editorial independence, this publication will contribute to the American media's mission of faithfully providing balanced, truthful accounts and information.

**Residents' Journal** strives to be accessible to all communities, regardless of income, ethnicity or disability.

**We The People Media** is committed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the Freedom of the Press.

The views expressed in this publication do not reflect the views of **We The People Media** or its staff.

## Our Readership

In January 2001, Target Market News Service, national experts on African American media markets, conducted a readership study for **We The People Media** sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Below are findings of this study:

\* **Residents' Journal** is the unique source of critical information for Chicago public housing residents. Nearly every respondent (92 percent) said they wanted to see **RJ** printed more often.

\* **RJ** readers are actively involved in the transformation of their communities. Respondents ranked "Neighborhood News" (80 percent) and "CHA Stories" (75 percent) as their favorite sections, closely followed by "Citywide News" (61 percent) and "Health Stories" (52 percent).

\* **RJ**'s readers are active citizens. 84 percent of the respondents voted in the last

election while 67 percent attend religious services regularly.

\* **RJ**'s readers shop at large chain stores such as Walgreen's (73 percent), Jewel (70 percent) and Aldi's (67 percent). Readers also eat monthly at restaurants such as McDonald's (69 percent), Popeye's (39 percent), White Castle (34 percent) and KFC (39 percent).

\* Readers spend a large share of their income on groceries. Fifty-five (55) percent spend between \$100 and \$299 on groceries monthly; 22 percent spend between \$300 and \$499 on groceries monthly.

\* Readers are extremely interested in enhancing their skills: 52 percent are interested in computer training, 41 percent are interested in job training and 20 percent would like to receive nursing or health care training.

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# Publisher's Box

by Ethan Michaeli  
**Publisher**

Jeanice Patton gave up on the Plan for Transformation a long time ago. Patton moved out of Robert Taylor Homes in 2000, the same year Mayor Richard M. Daley announced the Plan. The mayor promised that residents who moved out temporarily could return shortly, after the high-rises were demolished and replaced with new, 'mixed-income' communities.

Patton didn't go too far from Robert Taylor, settling in the neighborhood just south of where the development stood. Like most of those who moved out, she used a Section 8 certificate – now known as Housing Choice Voucher – to subsidize her rent in a relatively well-managed, new construction development. Unlike many of her former neighbors, Patton never expected to come back.

"I left it and kept on going," she explained. "I thought, 'Let me get into a good building so I don't have to move from place to place.'"

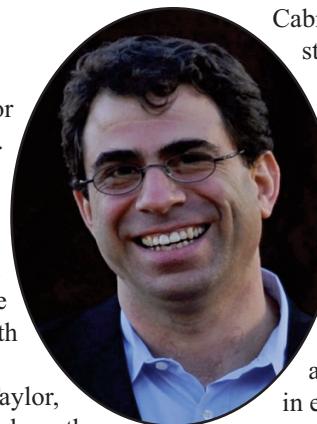
What Patton feared is exactly what happened to many of her former neighbors. They have gone from one dilapidated building to another, as landlords failed to keep up with their maintenance or became victims of the foreclosure crisis. Most of the former public housing residents are in neighborhoods that are as plagued by gangs and drugs as the housing developments were. Many lost their Section 8s and joined the hundreds of thousands of low-income families who struggle to survive without a break in their rent.

Most of those who planned to return to the mixed-income communities have been disappointed. Nearly a decade after the Plan was launched and more than three years after the last building in Robert Taylor was demolished, the land where the development stood is still vacant.

The land will stay empty for the foreseeable future. For now and probably forever, the Plan for Transformation is dead, killed by the downturn in the nation's housing market.

The Chicago Housing Authority, the agency charged with the responsibility for implementing the Plan, doesn't admit that it's over. To do so would be a political problem for the Mayor. The Plan's failure is yet another broken promise to those low-income families who left CHA properties, and if the failure was conceded, taxpayers would ask what happened to the \$1.5 billion in federal funds that were dedicated to the Plan.

CHA Development Chief Bill Little insisted in an interview that the Plan was continuing. Sure, the land where Robert Taylor, Washington Park and many other developments stood is vacant, with no deals yet for anything to get built. Sure, there are over 100 units still to be sold at Parkside, the North Side development around



Cabrini-Green where sales were supposed to be strongest. And yes, slow sales at other sites caused one developer to go bankrupt and led another to hold an auction of town homes. But those are just bumps in the road, Little maintained.

Little said this was a "fluid Plan." I have no idea what that means. He said that CHA was working with the federal government, City Hall and banks to buy foreclosed properties. Little added that the agency was scheduled to receive \$144 million in economic stimulus funds as well as other federal money. He conceded that all of that money was reserved for creating rental units for low-income families, and yet he asserted that the new communities will be 'mixed-income.'

"We are going to put ourselves in a position to respond to the market," Little said.

Despite Little's optimism, it's hard to see how the Plan can be implemented in the current climate. The 'mixed-income' communities were supposed to be one third for-sale housing, one third market-rate rentals and one-third public housing units. But developers won't build the for-sale units because there aren't any people out there looking to buy housing, even in neighborhoods that already have schools, businesses and other amenities. The market-rate rentals depend on affordable housing tax credits, the price of which is also dependent on the real estate market. So those won't get built either, which

**T**he Plan for Transformation is dead, killed by the downturn in the nation's housing market. The battle over the Plan for Transformation is over. The war over the soul of the city continues.

means that two-thirds of the Plan for Transformation will not get done any time soon.

For all the blood, sweat, tears and money that went into the Plan, the net result will be a smaller number of rental units for poor families built in clusters surrounded by empty space. Those units will be in cheaply built town homes that are unlikely to survive four decades, as the concrete high-rises did. That's the situation right now in Oakwood Shores, the 'mixed-income' community that replaced Ida B. Wells Homes, and in Park Boulevard, which replaced Stateway Gardens. Oakwood Shores and Park Boulevard are glimpses into the diminished future of the Plan.

The few units which have been built come with many strings attached. The CHA's rules for tenants who wish to live in the new units include requirements for work, education, good credit and drug testing. Market-rate tenants in the new developments don't have to adhere to those rules.

Patton gets notices all the time asking her to apply for the mixed-income communities. She throws all of the

invitations in the garbage. She has good credit and would easily pass all of the other requirements, but considers the CHA's requirements an infringement of her constitutional rights, a product of vicious stereotypes of residents instituted by the same government that failed to stop the flow of guns and illegal drugs which made life hellish in the developments.

"A lot of people in government brought in their personal feelings of what disenfranchised people should be doing," Patton said. "All of this was always against the poor, from the federal government on down."

Moving on doesn't mean giving up, however. Patton is currently engaged in a new fight to make sure that if the Olympics come to Chicago, the jobs and funds that will flow into the city will benefit low-income families. Like her previous battles, this one is personal. Patton lives just blocks from Washington Park, where a new Olympic stadium and other facilities will be built. And like her other battles, this one will pit the city's low-income, African American mothers against Mayor Daley.

As tough as the World War II general with the same name, Patton's tenacity goes back generations, to the grandmother who was the family matriarch in her native Meridian, Miss. Patton learned about Chicago politics and civil rights from her mother, Ethel Washington, who was a Local Advisory Council president in Robert Taylor Homes. In the mid-'90s, Washington won a civil rights lawsuit that stopped CHA from conducting warrantless sweeps of public housing apartments. She subsequently lost the LAC presidency in an election that many people think was rigged by the CHA.

This time, Patton thinks she has a good chance to succeed. For one, she has faith in the administration of President Barack Obama. For another, she thinks the economic downturn has changed many people's perspectives. Those who

are sliding from the middle class into poverty have less interest in social engineering and will demand a share of the opportunities available through the Olympics. Essentially, Patton thinks the "New Depression," as she calls it, has tipped the scales in her favor.

"A lot of people who used to be middle class are in a poor person mode now. They are wondering 'How can we make it from day to day?'" She said.

"Public housing is the last thing on people's minds now. People are trying to survive." So far, Patton and her allies have won a seat at the table and are building relationships with some of the city's major power-brokers. She knows that success will take shrewd maneuvering, the ability to negotiate reasonably, and the ability to cause trouble if demands are not met. The lessons of the past weigh heavily on her strategy and tactics.

"Chicago divides and conquers people," she said. "If we don't get what we want, we'll fight."

The battle over the Plan for Transformation is over. The war over the soul of the city continues.

## Remembering Beauty Turner

**O**n behalf of the staff and board of We The People Media/Residents' Journal, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Beauty Turner, our former Assistant Editor.

Beauty passed away Dec. 18, 2008, after a short illness. As many of you know, Beauty worked for Residents' Journal for more than eight years, but left our organization a year before her death. Even after her tenure here ended, we remained friends and I join those thousands of people around Chicago who miss her terribly.

I have just two consolations, the first being the hundreds of e-mail messages I received from people all over the world who expressed how much Beauty touched them. For my second consolation, I have the moving articles about Beauty written by two of our reporters.

The first, "A Health Report About Aneurysm,"

appears on page 20 and was written by Quintana Woodridge. Quintana graduated from our Urban Youth International Journalism Program in 1998 and is now an adult reporter at Residents' Journal.

The second article, "The Voice of the Voiceless," appears in our Urban Youth International Journalism Program section, pgs 12- 15, and was written by current youth reporter Tatiyana Sanders. Tatiyana interviewed Beauty's nephew, Marvin Robinson, who is continuing her work from his base in the G.H.E.T.T.O. (Greatest History Ever Told To Our People) Gallery.

Both Quintana and Tatiyana grew up in the Ida B. Wells public housing development, which is gone from the city's landscape but lives on in the hearts and memories of those who lived there.

Beauty spent most her life advocating and writing on behalf of tenants of public housing and other low-income people. She was particularly devoted to young people, so I think that these articles are a fitting tribute.'



RJ Archive Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

1957 - 2008

## News Briefs

### **Mayor Releases Stimulus List**

On March 12, Mayor Richard M. Daley identified more than \$1 billion in city projects in education, infrastructure, employment, housing, energy efficiency and public safety to be funded by the economic stimulus plan passed by the US Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in February.

With the federal support, Chicago hopes to "rehabilitate over 900 units of CHA housing; provide emergency housing assistance to nearly 13,000 families; provide job training for more than 5,000 people, including green job training and technology training and other jobs of the future such as health care, hospitality and transportation; create almost 6,000 of these jobs in the construction industry; help create 7,300 summer jobs for youth, 750 positions to provide child care, health care, education and social services and 650 community service jobs to be filled by ex-offenders and other difficult-to-place workers; offer substance abuse and mental health assistance for more than 1,000 low-income residents; install energy efficient traffic lights at 800 intersections; convert 235 city blocks to energy efficient street lamps; and make energy efficient improvements in city buildings to reduce the cost of government by \$3.5 million per year; expand assistance for energy retrofitting in about 1,000 units of housing; provide short- and medium-term assistance to more than 7,000 households in danger of becoming homeless; offer assistance to low-income Chicagoans and help them access public benefits including food assistance, LIHEAP and EITC; provide more resources to supplement our current home foreclosure counseling programs and offer more affordable home loan and refinancing options for those who have lost their jobs; help transition foreclosed condos into affordable rental units; and construct or rehabilitate 700 units of affordable rental housing," according to a statement from the mayor's office.

### **200 with HIV/AIDS to Get Housing**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently awarded funds to help the AIDS Foundation of Chicago house nearly 200 people, the agency reported. HUD provided the foundation with a renewable, two-year \$4.2 million grant for housing for people in Chicago with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Foundation will use the funds to create permanent, supportive housing through its Supportive Housing for Health Partnership.

The grant is part of nearly \$1.6 billion in grants that HUD awarded to approximately 6,300 homeless assistance projects through its Continuum of Care programs, and will provide rental subsidies for 195 units. The Partnership received the amount from nearly \$50 million in grants awarded to Chicago housing programs.

### **"Making Work Pay" Tax Cut for Working Families**

By April 1st, the average American family will begin to keep an additional \$65 each month through the "Making Work Pay" tax cut that went into effect in February 2009.

"This tax cut will go to more Americans, more quickly than any ever before in history," President Barack Obama announced in his weekly address, that month.

Employers are now required to reduce the taxes withheld from 95% of working families' paychecks, under the newly signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## To All CHA relocated residents with Housing Vouchers or those residing in temporary CHA replacement units!!!

If you and your family have or do not have any relocation issues of concern such as, utility, unit, rent, or safety, **Residents' Journal** would like to know. **We The People Media**, the publishers of **RJ**, are currently tracking where everyone is going to find out if they are living in a safe, affordable and decent replacement unit as promised by the Chicago Housing Authority. Call Mary C. Johns at (312) 745-2682.

## Homeless Vets Speak Out

by Michael Ibrahim

This reporter was recently forwarded a press release which focused on the problem of homeless veterans recently discharged from active duty. The Jan. 5, 2009, press release was issued by the Illinois chapter of Volunteers of America indicated that "Nationally, over 200,000 are homeless on any given night in this country and more than 500,000 are homeless at some point during the year."

Erica Foreman, a community relations coordinator for Volunteers of America, said: "The lack of affordable housing - that is a big problem in Chicago and nationally, leaving many veterans in America homeless."

"A lot of people don't realize how many homeless veterans there are. It is obscene."

"There has never been affordable housing or sufficient job opportunities for these veterans. Volunteers of America has come up with its own affordable housing program that should be launched in 2010 on Madison and St. Louis on Chicago's West Side. I think our communities should really get involved and contact local aldermen and governmental officials."

Bob Palmer, policy director of Housing Action Illinois, cited data to show the growing extent of the crisis: "National data shows that 26 percent of adults experiencing homelessness are veterans, although veterans make up only 11 percent of the adult civilian population. In 2006, 2,197 veterans in Illinois experienced homelessness, according to Veterans Administration data."

"The increase in veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the state of the economy undoubtedly suggest that homelessness among recent veterans has been increasing"

One of the veterans I interviewed put the case simply. Frederick Tolbert, a homeless veteran, said, "For those that lay their lives on the line for this country, housing is not much to ask for."

"You know when Barack Obama was senator, he really gave me confidence in this country again with this program called Veteran Upward Bound. There was an affiliate veteran's program at Roosevelt University, part of a Trio Networking Company that was very helpful. I learned my computer skills being part of this program. I wrote to some governmental officials and Sen. Obama sent me a letter back saying that 'We will not let this program go.' There had actually been talk of shutting the program down."

Tolbert said housing was a challenge after his discharge: "I had my sister who wanted to be there for me but that was a jeopardizing her situation because of my sister being a part of public housing and in that situation, you can't have anyone else living there because it could jeopardize your standing with public housing."

"I just had to go...I went into a homeless shelter on 63rd Street and Claremont after I left my sister's."

"Since leaving the service, I've had hundreds of jobs. I wrote a book called 'The Road to 100 Jobs.' Why so many? Well, because after 6 months, I was gone from my job. (After discharge) I was a thrill seeker and the thrill was in my ability to get a job. After 6 months, the thrill was gone, so I sought and found another job. The thrill was just in the act. Like for the book, the thrill was to write it, not publish it. The thrill was in getting the job, not working for so long or holding onto the job. Volunteers of America has really helped me to cope with

post-war stress and has helped to make me more sociable. Before I came here, I didn't want to be around anyone. I came here and I was really helped to start opening up more.



"I think for the first two months, soldiers should be able to talk to somebody and even if the soldiers say they don't want to, it should be mandatory because during that therapeutic time, something will come out. This is a capitalist country and you will suffer. I think that any soldier should be provided with someone to talk with before they come out, at least for 60 days."

"I think that people in governmental authority should give, and I am really just asking for a chance. Big things are not perfect but thank God for shelters. I mean, you can't put a band aid on a situation."

Homelessness and affordable housing have been huge areas of concern for activists for a long time. Now, however, with talk of bringing the troops home from Iraq as soon as political and military wisdom would dictate, activists and media people alike are trying to look at studies to see what kind of picture the numbers or statistics seem to project. To confirm the figures in the press release, I spoke with Tom Greco at one of many Veterans Administration offices. Greco cited a report written by the VA's Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups), which he said was updated regularly.

That report stated: "The guiding principle behind Project CHALENG is that no single agency can provide the full spectrum of services required to help homeless veterans become productive members of society. Project CHALENG enhances coordinated services by bringing the VA together with community agencies and other federal, state, and local governments who provide services to the homeless to raise awareness of homeless veterans' needs and to plan to meet those needs. Each year, Project CHALENG publishes a report summarizing the results of annual surveys of both local VA staff and community participants."

"The 2007 CHALENG Report estimates that on any given night, approximately 154,000 veterans are homeless... This figure is a decrease of 21 percent from the estimate 195,827 given in the 2006 CHALENG Report."

The report indicates reduction in veteran homelessness figures. But many activists are not pleased with what they see as the spinning of the numbers done by the Veterans Administration. On the "Fact Checker" section of the National Alliance to End Homelessness's web site, I found this statement: "Counting the number of homeless veterans is a difficult task. Convergent sources estimate that between 23 and 40 percent of homeless adults are veterans."

Although homeless veterans have served in different wars, including World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama and Lebanon, earlier research indicated that those serving in the late Vietnam and post-Vietnam era had the highest representation in the homeless population.

"Recent media accounts highlight a small but growing number of veterans from the Iraq wars showing up in shelters."

**HOMELESS VETS SPEAK OUT**  
continues on Page 5

# The White House Agenda for the Poor

by Mary C. Johns  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The new administration of President Barack Obama is apparently not very interested in sharing its plans for low-income people. Little has been announced publicly about what the administration will do for the poor in these hard economic times, and *Residents' Journal's* calls to the White House over a three-week period failed to get a comment by press time.

A lot of information is available on the White House web site, however. Here is a partial list:

To tackle concentrated poverty, the Obama administration promises to create and establish 20 "Promise Neighborhoods in areas that have high levels of poverty and crime and low levels of student academic achievement in cities across the nation."

The program will be modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, which provides an entire neighborhood with services for young people at every age, including early childhood education, youth violence prevention efforts and after-school activities, according to the White House.

The administration plans to spend \$1 billion over five years on transitional jobs and career pathway programs for low-income people.

A Green Jobs Corps Program will be created "to directly engage disadvantaged youth in energy efficiency opportunities to strengthen their communities." To ensure that low-income workers can get to work, the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program will send more dollars for public transportation to the highest-need communities and also fund urban planning on transportation policy.

The administration plans to increase Earned Income Tax Credit benefits and reduce the marriage penalty, which they state "hurts low-income families."

The minimum wage will rise to \$7.25 an hour this year, and is expected to increase to \$9.50 an hour by 2011. Paid sick days will be guaranteed for low-wage workers. Low-income and middle-income workers will also receive a \$500 "Making Work Pay" tax credit to offset their payroll taxes, and taxes will also be eliminated from seniors making under \$50,000 annually. The credits will be permanent, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit will be reformed "by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit



for their child care expenses."

The president also plans to sign into law his Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act, which will "remove some of the government penalties on married families, crack down on men avoiding child support payments, and ensure that payments go to families instead of state bureaucracies."

The Nurse-Family Partnership program, which provides home visits by trained, registered nurses to low-income, expectant mothers and their families, will expand to 570,000 low-income, first-time mothers each year.

Nearly \$20 million is scheduled to be spent to increase food stamp benefits to the 30 million people who use them, and to provide money for food banks, school lunch programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps low-income seniors and families pay heat and air conditioning bills, will increase to \$3.2 billion.

## Programs for Ex-Offenders

The administration plans to create a prison-to-work incentive program to reduce crime recidivism and to ensure that ex-offenders have access to job training and other opportunities, substance abuse and mental health counseling.

## The National Affordable Housing Plans

The president's new budget restores cuts to public housing operating subsidies from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and increases funding "while reforming or eliminating duplicative and inefficient programs."

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund, authorized in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, will be funded at \$1 billion every year for affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods.

The Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) — that provides housing and creates jobs primarily for low- and moderate-income people — will also be fully funded and increased to \$4.5 billion for 2010.

Funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program will also be increased "to help more than two million extremely low- to low-income families with rental assistance." Funding for the Project-Based Rental Assistance program will be increased for owners of multifamily prop-

erties. The administration predicts this will preserve approximately 1.3 million rental units.

The Obama Administration will direct the US Treasury and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation "to encourage banks, credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions to provide affordable short-term and small dollar loans - and to drive the sharks out of business."

## Rebuilding New Orleans

Obama's agenda for Hurricane Katrina victims centers on "keeping the broken promises made by President Bush to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast."

In early March, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that "hundreds of millions of dollars in funding" will be allotted to Louisiana to rebuild the area from the devastating hurricanes that took place there in 2005.

\$1.5 billion is allocated for homeless prevention activities, which will be sent out to states, cities and local governments through the Emergency Shelter Grant Formula, according to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

## For People with Disabilities

The administration is proposing a four-part plan "to empower individuals with disabilities in order to equalize opportunities for them and provide lifelong support and resources to them." The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act will fund programs to support early intervention for children with disabilities and universal screening to improve college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities and make college more affordable.

Regulations that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities and those that provide private-sector employers with resources to accommodate employees with disabilities will be implemented "effectively," the administration pledged.

The Community Choice Act will help Americans with disabilities who want to live "in their community rather than having to live in a nursing home or other institution."

**THE WHITE HOUSE AGENDA FOR THE POOR continues on Page 8**

# Homeless Vets Speak Out

**continued from Page 4**

Lawrence Dangerfield, another veteran, had a lot to say about his to survive after being discharged from the military. Neatly dressed, he spoke confidently with wisdom and understanding. In my interview with him, Dangerfield explained some the difficulties encountered after being discharged: "I first came out disoriented. I

mined that I was not to see any action, as the powers that be decided that I should not be given a gun. Things changed. I came back to the US angry because I was trained to kill but was not rehabilitated, so I was de-activated feeling angry. And, as for African Americans, our families really care for us because they love us, and really want to help us, but sometimes they can't, because we're dysfunctional.

They can't really help us because they don't understand, like when we're screaming in

ent and because of your self-dependent attitude, well, I had an inability to reach out and touch society because I've had mental conflicts and anguish and when I was in the service, I was sent to a psychiatrist. That didn't help me. Truthfully, I believe that he didn't try. After my first year, I developed an alcoholic problem and was never offered help and that led to a drug problem which they knew about, but did not try to help me at all. (It seemed) that I saw (people of other ethnic groups) not be demoted for the same reasons that I was; all of the white guys still got promoted regardless of their problems or circumstances. Often, they seemed to receive better treatment and that really caused unnecessary anger in me.

"I think for prevention, before the soldiers are discharged they should be given 45-60 days to get re-acclimated and there should be city military residences for at least 6 months to a year for those that sacrificed their time and lives for the United States."

Dangerfield said some of the community and church-based organizations have utilized re-integration strategies with returning veterans not provided by the military.

Dangerfield added that "the patience of the staff and their workers" at these community- and faith-based facilities did him the most good. "They provide the hope and self-confidence...really reaffirming the hope and self-confidence which seemed lost beneath the surface. It is actually the lack of self confidence that causes rebellion," said Dangerfield.

**F**or those that lay their lives on the line for this country, housing is not much to ask for.

**- Frederick Tolbert, a homeless veteran**

couldn't handle people standing behind me.

I was depressed and disappointed because I was not admitted into the war and my purpose for joining the service was to participate in the war. I was an angry youth. I was tired of being shot at on the streets. I wanted to kill or be killed. I was shipped off to Hawaii where the captain sent me to see a psychiatrist at Pearl Harbor.

Originally, my crew and I were to be sent to Vietnam. However, after my psychiatric evaluation, it was deter-

the middle of the night because we have nightmares due to our experiences in the war. Some of us have addictions or social problems. It's many things that we come back with that are very problematic. I never saw combat but my war-time experiences might actually have been worse. Our families care but may not understand and therefore they can't really provide adequate and relevant or sufficient help.

"After you leave the service, you become independ-

# Transforming CHA

## Harold Ickes Homes

by Jacqueline Thompson

### Ickes On Its Last Leg

The Harold Ickes public housing development is one of the last to go through change under the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation, now in its 10th year. All around the city, renovation and rehabilitation has brightened up the city's neighborhoods. New architecture both outside and inside has replaced decades-old buildings with outdated floor plans and replacement housing for residents of CHA who are eligible for the Right to Return.

As a long-time resident of Ickes, the most often question I am asked is, "What are 'they' going to do with Ickes?" And further, "Are 'they' going to tear down, rehabilitate or redevelop?" My answer is, "I don't know."



Photo by JACQUELINE THOMPSON

**Trucks arrive to move residents from buildings scheduled to close into other consolidated buildings at the Harold Ickes Home public housing complex in January 2009.**

I have inquired of persons in high places, and so far, the latest answer has been, "Nothing has been determined yet." That was from Matthew Aguilar, CHA spokesperson. Aguilar did promise to inquire further and get back to me. I wait patiently.

**W**hen the consolidation takes place, there will be a new security system put in place and you should all feel more secure and safe from all the drug traffic.

**- CHA CEO Lewis Jordan**

I tried to check with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

HUD published that "Harold Ickes was not subject to demolition." But I was unable to speak directly to anyone. Even after many referrals from one individual to another, I still couldn't get an answer. I wait patiently.

As I continued to wait, I was drawn to the CHA document FY2009, Moving to Work Annual Plan for Transformation Year 10. In it, on page 55, I found that Harold Ickes comes under the "Properties to be Redeveloped or Rehabilitated" section:

"Bullet 1: Although there are no finalized plans for redevelopment/rehabilitation of Harold Ickes Homes, in FY2009 the CHA will continue to evaluate alternative methods for revitalization both internally and with resident leadership.

"Bullet 2: When complete, Harold Ickes Homes will contain 312 public housing units by FY2015."

All the above may just be the final answer, but when did HUD sanction the change from "no demolition to redevelop" to "maybe redevelop or rehabilitate?" Now this is what I would like to know.

In mid year 2008, when CHA CEO Louis Jordan kept his promise to speak to the residents of Ickes, we all left the meeting feeling reassured that Ickes was not to close



during the fall of 2008.

"However, soon we would receive letters to come to the office to discuss other housing possibilities such as our housing choices, etc., and assist us in relocating when the time comes."

We may have overlooked those last few words, "when the time comes," because it did come with a bang. The month before

Christmas, we had another meeting with Jordan. This time, he explained that "Ickes is going into a consolidation phase. Three more buildings are to be closed and the residents are to be moved into vacant apartments within Ickes until they relocate to their housing choices become available.

"You will be given 30 days to pack and move," he said. Two weeks before Christmas, we got our moving dates. It was in the midst of the cold of winter, and there was no chance of developing the annual neighborliness of the Christmas spirit, within our own homes or within the community.

The one thing that stood out at the last meeting with Jordan was when he said, "When the consolidation takes place, there will be a new security system put in place and you should all feel more secure and safe from all the drug traffic."

That brought a bigger question to mind from all the residents present who, like myself, want to know why it took so long to address the human tsunami of drug users coming in and out day and night. Why were the plans not forthcoming when the combination of unattended building deterioration, plus illegal drug trafficking and unsuccessful policing, made Ickes an island of pressure, stress and disgust? It was 24/7. Urine up and down the stairwells and hallways. Human feces waiting daily for hard-working

Floods of police and Security took over the exterior and interior of the three buildings.

How long, did I ask before? Ten to 14 days, at the most. Safe at last, while residents are steadily relocating to newly 'renovated' or 'redeveloped' homes.

So, in view of the most recent happenings at Harold Ickes, everybody's guess is as good as mine in answer to the big question, "What are 'they' going to do with Ickes?"

### Athleticism Ranks On Top At NTA

In February, state Sen. Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) went to the National Teachers Academy, which is adjacent to Ickes, to personally congratulate, applaud and award the First Place citywide football team and their outstanding coaches with gifts of personal certificates to each participant, along with a photographed plaque, a running back trophy and a huge bouquet of long-stemmed roses. Hunter explained her role as state senator and how the job connects her to the federal government, down to the very neighborhood their school is part of.

The senator's educational and encouraging talk gave the team members insight as to what a career in public office such as hers would be like. She promised the team and coaches that they would be invited to spend a day in Springfield later in the year, going around the capitol and experiencing a day in the life of public service.

In their first year of playing citywide, the National Teachers Academy's football team rose to the top of their game with the winning score of 20-1 to defeat the reigning city champions, Dodge Academy.

When their basketball team became a part of the physical education curriculum with the focus on student self-control, development and good attendance, the students began fully participating, getting good grades, showing good conduct at all times and having good athletic skills. These were the qualities that were purposefully being instilled in each team member by the unique team of concerned school male employees whose titles did not exclude them from working faithfully together to create a winning team of male students.

Their successful path as a basketball team came to the attention of the Academy for Urban School Leadership, who came to the school and invited them to join their fall 2008 annual football league.

"The acceptance of the invitation created an abrupt start physically, mentally, socially and spiritually to the 'infant' football team," said Aaron O'Neill, gym teacher. The three-week preparation period involved getting uniforms, learning new game rules, tactics, practicing and acquiring a new attitude about sportsmanship.

Coaches O'Neill and Nehemiah Daniel, Marc Ousley, Joe Ramis and Chris Barberis molded the boys into first-class players, working with the young men weekdays and weekends. The results were nine games played, seven in the regular season, with a loss of two. The team gained a position in the final playoffs and beat both teams to whom they'd lost earlier to clinch first place.

Congratulations NTA!!!!!!



Photo by JACQUELINE THOMPSON  
**Illinois Sen. Mattie Hunter (center) with 2009 Chicago Citywide Elementary Football Team Champions and their coaches from the National Teachers Academy, located adjacent to the Harold Ickes public housing complex.**

# Transforming CHA Ickes Leader Challenges CHA CEO

by Mary C. Johns

**I**t is no future at Ickes," declared Gloria Williams, the resident leader at the Harold Ickes Homes, to Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) CEO Lewis Jordan at the Tenant Services meeting on March 11.

Williams was upset because CHA has been rapidly closing down buildings and emptying out the 738-unit public housing complex without having a formal federal plan to redevelop or rehabilitate the site.

"You can steadily put people out," Williams said. "I just want my people and the people here to know that I did everything I could. But when housing decides to tear your land down...it's no stopping. I cannot stop them."

"It's not a 'we' thing. It's a CHA thing. I used to be a part of it. Now it's just a CHA thing," she added.

Only 95 families remain at Ickes, located on the State Street Corridor between 22nd and 25th streets. Williams speculated that CHA was consolidating buildings at Ickes to create reasons to have the development demolished.

**t's not a 'we' thing. It's a CHA thing. I used to be a part of it. Now it's just a CHA thing.**

**- Gloria Williams, Local Advisory Council president at Harold Ickes Homes**

Jordan said he would continue to try and work with Williams. He disputed Williams' speculation that CHA was trying to redevelop the site and turn it into a mixed income development without federal permission.

He told *Residents' Journal* immediately following the Tenant Service meeting that residents are being moved into consolidated buildings on site strictly for "safety and operational" reasons.

"There are currently no plans in place, as I've said before to do anything with Ickes," Jordan said.

"The consolidation and closing down buildings is strictly driven by safety and operational costs issues."

Jordan added that residents initially asked to move out of the public housing complex with Housing Choice Vouchers, into units at other CHA sites, or into consolidated buildings at Ickes.

"The residents came to us and said for various reasons that they wanted to exercise their choice of moving," Jordan said.

"In response to the residents who came and said, 'I don't feel safe here. I have issues here. I want another housing choice.' We told them, 'We'll give you three choices. You can take a temporary voucher and once we get the redevelopment process started or whatever we're

going to do, you have the right to return.'

That was number one. Number two, we said, 'You can take a permanent voucher and you can move out and you can go wherever you want to go.' Number three, we said 'You can move into a rehabbed public housing development.' And then number four, we said, 'You can stay right here.'

"I have a commitment. I have a responsibility to make sure people feel safe and to make sure that the conditions in those buildings are up to par and that's what we're doing," he said.

Jordan confirmed that CHA is planning for some of the vacant buildings to be demolished.

"I know at some point the conditions of the empty buildings we feel won't be, aren't in a position that we can rehab," Jordan said. "So the next plan will be to start where there are empty buildings. The long-term plan is to knock those buildings down."

Jordan added that CHA would seek approval from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**Chicago Housing Authority chief Lewis Jordan pausing to listen to Harold Ickes public housing resident leader Gloria Williams' complaints during the March 11 Tenant Services meeting.**

Ickes but the man in charge had been fired by the CHA last year.

She added that she was also left out of the process when Jordan began having meetings last year to decide what would be done with Ickes.

"We had a working group but they weren't doing anything. So people stopped coming. And then they fired the man that was over the working group," she explained.

"What they want to get done, they do. Before they started tearing buildings down and started deciding when they were going to start taking down buildings, they had their meeting. I wasn't invited. I have letters that I wrote him in my office concerning the tearing down. He came out to meetings but never gave me nothing in writing," Williams said.

Williams said she was born and grew up on 36th and State streets and attended a nearby elementary school. She said it didn't really matter to her whether Ickes was rehabbed or redeveloped as long as the people living there could return.

"It could be redeveloped or rehabbed, either one. But I think if these people want to stay here, they should be able to stay here because their roots are here."

Their mothers and fathers have died here. Their sisters and brothers," she said.

"To pull these people up and send them somewhere else they never been, it's a hardship."

## Plan or No Plan?

**R**J reported last year that Jordan sought to redevelop Ickes as a mixed-income community just after Mayor Daley chose him to run CHA.

"There was a time that we went into Harold Ickes and there were some strong recommendations around a gut rehab," Jordan said then.

"And as we went in and looked and we weighed the cost of rehabbing versus redevelopment, it was clear that it needed to be redeveloped.

"I don't have a specific time-line I can give you, but the long range intent is to do redevelopment...teardown and rebuild with the intent of doing a third a third a third..." Jordan said during a press conference in April 2008.

HUD has yet to approve CHA's plans to tear down Ickes.

Last year, *RJ* reported that based upon the information provided by CHA, HUD determined that Ickes Homes "are not subject to the requirement to develop and carry out a plan for removal over time from the public housing inventory under Section 202 of the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996 and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 971."

Other HUD regulations state that after a public housing authority can "identify certain distressed public housing developments that cost more than Section 8 rental assistance and cannot be reasonably revitalized," then it allows them to demolish.

You can read more about this issue in the *RJ* article titled "CHA Plans for Ickes Homes Contrary to HUD" at

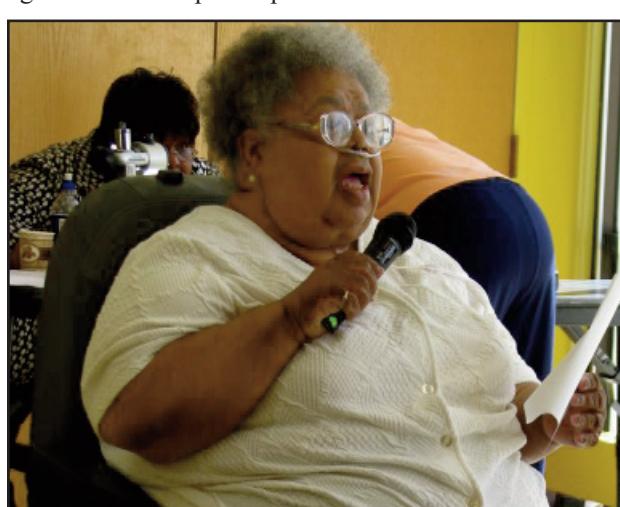


Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**Harold Ickes Homes resident leader Gloria Williams complaining to CHA CEO Lewis Jordan about the agency's handling of the public housing site during a March 11 Tenant Services meeting.**

# Transforming CHA CHA's Safe Harbor Gets Bigger

by Mary C. Johns

In January and February, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board approved important changes to its work rules for tenants and to the Plan for Transformation.

We just want to make sure that the young mothers who have a problem getting child care. We don't want that extra worry about whether they are going to be evicted.

- Robert Whitfield, an attorney for the residents Central Advisory Council

#### The Work Requirement Policy Changes

At a special CHA Board meeting at the agency's downtown headquarters on Jan. 14, directors approved changes to the work requirement policy for its residents.

CHA clarified which residents can take advantage of 'Safe Harbor,' the policy which allows residents under certain circumstances to be exempt from the rules which state they have work or be in an educational program.

First, CHA decided that a person does not have to meet the work rules if they are caring for "a victim of violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking."

CHA also lengthened the amount of time that volunteer or community service hours can count towards 50

percent of the requirement for hours they must work or be in an educational program. In the past, these volunteer activities could count for two years. Now they count for three years.

The CHA also removed the work requirement for "the primary caretaker of a child(ren) under age 13 in households with two or more adults; One adult working exempts one other adult from work to care for a child(ren) under age 13."

#### The Residents' Attorney Comments

Immediately following the January board hearing, Robert Whitfield — one of the attorneys for the Central Advisory Council (CAC), the elected resident leadership for family and senior public housing — told *Residents' Journal* that he had no major problems with the work rule changes. Whitfield said he was concerned that there was no provision in the Safe Harbor policy for mothers who have trouble getting child care.

"We do have some slight concerns," Whitfield said. "But [CHA] indicated that they would sit down with us and talk to us about. It's mainly about the Safe Harbor. We just want to make sure that the young mothers who have a problem getting child care. We don't want that extra worry about whether they are going to be evicted."

Whitfield added that CHA was showing a "great willingness to sit down and negotiate" about that concern.

Also, at CHA's public board meeting on Feb. 17 at the 18th District Police Station in the Cabrini Green area, the agency decided to apply for 1,121 vouchers to replace units which already have been demolished.

# The White House Agenda For The Poor

continued from Page 5

#### For the Nation's Senior Citizens

The Obama Administration states it will protect Social Security and is opposed to privatization. "As part of a bipartisan plan that would be phased in over many years, they will ask those making over \$250,000 to contribute a bit more to Social Security to keep it sound."

To protect workers and retirees' pensions, corporate bankruptcy laws will be reformed, and automatic workplace pensions plans will be created, which will require employers who do not currently offer a retirement plan to enroll their employees in a direct-deposit IRA account. Employees can choose not to participate in the plan.

Social Security, Supplemental Security and veterans benefits will temporarily increase to where nearly 60 million retired and disabled Americans will immediately get \$250.

To stop job discrimination for aging employees, the administration plans to strengthen the Age Discrimination in Employment Act along with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Programs like Senior Corps that retirees who want to volunteer opportunities will be expanded.

#### Education Plans

The No Child Left Behind Program will continue to be funded and a K-12 plan will be created that will "expand service scholarships to underwrite high-quality preparation for teachers who commit to working in underserved districts and support ongoing improvements in teacher education."

In the administration's "Zero to Five" childhood education plan, young children and their parents will receive support through a \$10 billion annual investment to create Early Learning Challenge Grants.

Head Start funding will increase, with the aim that all children have access to pre-school, and a "Presidential Early Learning Council" will be created.

Funding for the 21st Century Learning Centers' "high quality after school programs" will double to serve 1 million more children.

"To reduce the national High School dropout rate," Obama intends to sign into law his "Success in the Middle Act."

In the 2010-2011 school year, Pell grants will be

increased to a maximum of \$5,550 for college students. In the future, Pell grants will be indexed to the consumer price index plus 1 percent in order to offset inflation.

Also in the budget, the administration promises to boost the Student Loan Program and force private providers to compete for contracts to service loans. Campus-based, low-interest loans will be made more widely available through a new Perkins Loan program.

In addition, the budget increases funding for the charter school program to support the expansion of successful charter school models, while increasing state oversight to monitor and shut down low-performing charter

schools."

#### Crime and Law Enforcement National Plans

To tackle the War on Drugs on the home front, Obama plans "to fully fund the COPS program to put 50,000 police officers on the street and help address police brutality and accountability issues in local communities."

Local programs like Ceasefire in Chicago will be supported and "the Tiahrt Amendment — which restricts the ability of local law enforcement to access important gun trace information and give police officers across the nation the tools they need to solve gun crimes and fight the illegal arms trade will be repealed to address gun violence in cities across the country."

Obama supports "closing the gun show loophole and making guns in this country childproof," and they will also support making the expired federal Assault Weapons Ban permanent.

#### Health Care Provisions

The president's FY2010 budget also includes access to health care for young and old low-income Americans, including Indians and Alaska Natives.

On March 2, Obama announced that under the Recovery Plan, \$155 million dollars will go toward supporting 126 new health centers across America "to help relieve the burden on emergency rooms across the country, which have become primary care clinics for many lacking health care coverage, and create jobs for an estimated 750,000 low-income Americans."

The budget also includes \$73 million to improve both access to and quality of health care for those living in rural areas. Also under the Recovery Act, funding for Medicaid will "temporarily" increase to help states facing budget shortfalls.

The federal government will also boost Medicare "by encouraging high quality and efficient care, and reducing excessive Medicare payments."

Obama signed an expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) on Feb. 4, funding the program through 2013 and providing an additional \$44 billion above the previous \$25 billion. CHIP will cover four million new children, the administration maintains.



Then Ill. Sen. Barack Obama speaking to participants in the immigration march and rally in Union Park on May 1, 2006.

# Transforming CHA

## Residents Blame CHA for School

by Mary C. Johns

**A**ttendance is low in our community because redevelopment is slow," declared William Fleming, a resident of the Cabrini-Green public housing complex, to members of the Chicago Board of Education on Feb. 25.

Fleming's daughter attends Schiller Elementary School, 640 W. Scott St. Next school year, Schiller will be consolidated because of low enrollment. It will cease to exist and students will be re-enrolled into Jenner Elementary, 1119 N. Cleveland Ave.

Fleming was among many voices addressing school officials over the changes to the school system. He and other public housing residents blamed the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Plan for Transformation for the closings, turnarounds, consolidations and phase outs of 16 public schools in predominantly African American and Latino low-income neighborhoods.

"In Cabrini-Green, we have a right to return, a federal right to return," Fleming said. "Over 600 [public housing] units will be built within the next 18 months with the minimal bedroom size being three for Chicago school children between K and eighth [grade]," he added.

Fleming and others were concerned about the potential for violence resulting from the school consolidations, which could lead to overcrowding in the classroom.

"These closings, turnarounds and consolidations are directly responsible for the spike in violence around these children," Fleming testified to the School Board members.

Fleming, who describes himself as a "human rights observer and monitor" and recently took part in a United

cautionary measures by immediately imposing a moratorium on the school closing and consolidations and turnarounds until there's a thorough, truthful study and investigation into the detrimental affect these non-democratic decisions have had on our communities, our families, educators and our children's right to life," he said.

School Board officials said consolidation at Cabrini-Green wouldn't cause overcrowding.

In a report to the Board of Education on Feb. 25, CPS communications officer David Pickens said the 190 children enrolled in Schiller for the 2008 school year will add to the 428 students enrolled at Jenner Elementary, which has the capacity for 930 students.

### Tenants Fail to Save their School

**T**o me, this is a wonderful school. The teachers along with the principal always motivate me.

That's the reason why I don't want this school to close down," said 8-year-old Rekia Flowers, a resident at the CHA's Wentworth Gardens public housing development and a third grade student at the Robert Sengstacke Abbott School during an early morning protest and press conference outside of the school the day before the Board hearing.

Abbott, 3630 S. Wells St. adjacent to Wentworth Gardens, is named after the founder of the Chicago Defender, one of the oldest and best-known



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**William Fleming, a resident of the Cabrini-Green public housing complex, testifying at the Chicago Board of Education hearings on school closures in February 2009. Fleming expressed concerns about the possibility of overcrowding that could result from relocating Schiller Elementary School students into a nearby school.**

children relocating to Hendricks because it's located in a crime-ridden area.

"I am here today fighting because my grandkids are going here," Elliot said. "Two of them were transferred from Hendricks to where they're trying to send the kids. And it's really bad down there. A boy was shot a month ago.

"My [grand] kids came out two years ago, and my daughter brought them to Abbott. One of them is really [disabled] and he's doing well here. So he doesn't want to leave because he's doing well here. He told me, 'Granny I am tired of moving from one school to the other one,'" Elliott said.

Abbott School currently serves a disproportionately high population of special needs students, including those with autism. Elliott said the school transition would cause instability in her disabled grandchild's life.

"He's 10 years old and he's been in three schools. That's too much for a small kid to handle," she said.

### Grand Boulevard Federation Concerns with Abbott's School Consolidation

**T**he non-profit Grand Boulevard Federation's education initiative, which has been working with Wentworth residents for years, tracks school closings and re-openings in the larger Douglas and Grand Boulevard community areas. The Grand Boulevard Federation found that 15 schools have closed and 13 schools have re-opened in those areas, according to a media release distributed at the press conference.

The Grand Boulevard Federation is concerned about the impact on the State Street Corridor from closing neighborhood schools serving CHA residents on the northern end.

The Federation noted that the buildings are turned over to the Renaissance 2010 lottery and selective enrollment operators without mandating the new schools serve students from the area as well as those who are displaced.

The Federation stated there are four under-enrolled neighborhood schools within a 1.5 mile radius on the southern end and no neighborhood schools on the other end.

**RESIDENTS BLAME CHA FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES**  
**continues on Page 21**



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

Many students from the Cabrini-Green public housing complex will soon be relocated from Friedrich Von Schiller School and consolidated into another area school in the next school year.

# Under Fire, Board Closes Schools

by Mary C. Johns

Under fire from parents, teachers, students and even some state legislators, the Chicago Board of Education voted to close, consolidate, phase out or turn-around 16 schools on Feb. 25.

Four schools will close, four will be consolidated into other schools, four will be put into 'turnaround' initiatives, and four will be phased out. The difference between a closing and a consolidation is that all of the consolidated school's students would move to the same receiving school. Staff members usually follow the students, except where there are overlaps, which would then be subject to union rules.

The Board designates a school for 'turnaround' when it has consistently low academic performance. No students have to move in a turnaround. Instead, the staff have to reapply for their jobs and an outside organization works with the school to change the culture, according to Chicago Public Schools' web site.

"Schools are phased out for low enrollment, and all students currently enrolled in the schools would be allowed to graduate. However, the school would not be able to enroll any kindergarten, or in some cases pre-K, students as of the 2009-10 school year.

"The following year, the school would not be able to enroll kindergarten or first-grade students, and each year would enroll one fewer grade."

Education Board president. Scott returned recently for another stint as board president.

Mayor Richard M. Daley also recently appointed Ron Huberman to replace Arne Duncan as CEO of the school system after Duncan was appointed US Secretary of Education by President Barack Obama. Stewart said the recent leadership transitions make her case for a moratorium on radical change in the school system. She noted that Huberman removed six schools from the list shortly after he was appointed.

"In the three weeks since Ron Huberman's come along, he's found some data and some missing information that he did not like. In three weeks, he pulled six schools.

"Scott's been gone for three years. That means that the two top people making these decisions need to have time to analyze the data.

"The process is flawed, and they're harming students, faculty and the community," Stewart said.

Stewart added that the closures, consolidations, phase outs and turnarounds are hard on the students, especially the homeless.

"It is statistically known that when students are moved around the system like that, they lose four to six months of educational process. We have a lot of students



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

Marilyn Stewart, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, talking to reporters in the hallway while the Chicago Board of Education was in session at Chicago Public Schools headquarters on February 25.

to have a moratorium.

"Have you been to Lathrop?" Scott asked. "Would you send your children to a school where four percent of the children are reading and computing at grade level, whatever the reason was? It's not the right thing to do."

Schools CEO Ron Huberman agreed with Scott's assessment.

"I believe it would be fundamentally wrong to stop the process where it is today, put a moratorium on this process and make those kids in those low-performing schools continue to go to those schools for years. Every year that they go to those schools, they're losing a year of academic attainment. It's a pure fairness equity issue," Huberman said.

Huberman agreed with Stewart that the process is flawed in how CPS makes their decisions to close, consolidate, and phase out schools, and said that in the future, CPS staff and the Board will review the process and explore ways to make the process more transparent. Huberman also said he will communicate better with all the different stakeholders, parents, teachers and principals.

## Schools to close, consolidate, turnaround or phase out

The schools proposed to be closed for low enrollment and which are all less than half full:

\* Nia Middle School, 2040 W. Adams St. (located in the Cregier Multiplex), Foundations Elementary School, 2040 W. Adams St. (located in the Cregier Multiplex), Princeton Elementary, 5125 S. Princeton Ave., and South Chicago Elementary, 8255 S. Houston Ave.

Schools approved for consolidation are Robert Sengstacke Abbott Elementary School at 3630 S. Wells Street, which is to be consolidated into Hendricks, 4316 S. Princeton Ave.; Davis Developmental Center, 9101 S. Jeffrey Blvd., will be consolidated into the new Langston Hughes building at 240 W. 104th St; Medill Elementary School, 1301 W. 14th St., is to be consolidated into Smyth Elementary School, 1059 W. 13th St.; and Schiller Elementary School, 640 W. Scott St., is to be consolidated into Jenner Elementary School, 1119 N. Cleveland Ave.

Turnaround schools are: Fenger High School, 11220 S. Wallace St., Elementary School, 6311 S. Calumet Ave., Johnson Elementary School, 1420 S. Albany Ave., and Bethune Elementary School located at 3030 W. Arthington St., to be managed by the Academy for Urban School Leadership.

Phased-out schools are: Carpenter Elementary School, 1250 W. Erie St., Lathrop Elementary School, 1440 S. Christiana Ave.; Reed Elementary School, 6350 S. Stewart Ave.; and Best Practice High School, 2040 W. Adams St. located in the Cregier Multiplex.

**T**he process is flawed, and they're harming students, faculty and the community.-  
**Marilyn Stewart, president of the Chicago Teachers' Union**

### Teachers Union Calls for Moratorium

Marilyn Stewart, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, was among those who asked the school board members to delay the vote and put a moratorium on their plans for all the targeted schools. Stewart said the Board made their decisions based on "flawed" and "missing" data.

"There is a lot of waste and mismanagement and a lot of missing data. I think a moratorium would be helpful... because it would be easier to postpone something than to reverse it...so you can get an outside independent organization to investigate that what you're doing is working," she said at the Board of Education meeting.

Stewart said she's been calling for a moratorium of CPS's reform plans for the past four years. She noted that four years ago, Michael Scott was the city's public

who are homeless.

"So if the schools are moving and the faculty is changing, you're harming our students."

Stewart said deadly situations are also a result of CPS plans.

"If the students are out there shooting themselves, what's the emphasis that's causing a child to harm someone when he gets outside of school? All of us are in danger," she said.

Stewart said she is not against the concept of closing or consolidating schools generally, but some of the under-enrolled schools are the result of gentrification in their surrounding neighborhoods. The under-enrollment has some positive effects, like smaller classroom sizes, which have created academic improvement for some low-income students.

"Why does the faculty have to reapply for their jobs if the schools are not underachieving? None of the schools on the list that were closing were underachieving. So the people in the community think their schools are failing if they're closing.

"No, they're closing schools because of space allocation utilization, which is they're not using enough rooms. But the school is saying, 'We're succeeding.' You've created a small school because of gentrification of the neighborhoods," she said.

Stewart added that about two years ago, the union wrote to the Board about the need for a moratorium on their school plans so they could better check their data before deciding and acting abruptly on them.

Stewart noted that state Rep. Cynthia Soto (D-IL) recently passed House Bill 0363, legislation on a school moratorium, through the House Education Committee. The bill is moving to the full House.

Michael Scott, who recently returned to governing the board after resigning three years ago, told reporters after the hearing that it wouldn't make sense to him



Returning Chicago Public School Board President Michael Scott (left) fielding reporters questions about school closures, as newly appointed CPS chief Ron Huberman (right) looks on at a press conference on February 25, 2009.

# U. S. Citizens Decry Relatives'

by Quintana Woodridge

You could have heard a pin drop at the town hall meeting at Saint Pius V. Catholic Church on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, when U.S. citizens spoke about family members who were deported.

Many people cried as they heard the testimony of families ripped apart and deported back to their original homeland by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement department (ICE). In the front of the room, where the town hall meeting was held, there stood a shrine dedicated to the families whose loved ones were taken from their homes. There on display were posters of families with a family member blotted out, representing those who were sent back and remain absent from the family. The meeting was hosted by US Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL).

Among these families that were torn apart was Maria Garcia-Lynch. Lynch is a US citizen married to Dominico Papaianni, who was one of the many people that came on a visitor's visa to America and didn't leave. Lynch and her son Richard both dressed in black and with tears in their eyes, stood in front of the meeting telling their story. Richard said, "I'm expected to be the man of the house since my dad is gone. I want my life



fellow citizens who had their parents, siblings and children sent back to their country of origin. Since the deportation of her husband, Lynch has struggled to keep their dental clinic and home.

Congressman Gutierrez then addressed the crowd: "We are people who are family first. During the presidential campaign, promises were made and goals were set. Immigration reform is one of our goals for the next administration. Millions of Americans are affected by our immigration laws. Stop destroying the families in our communities."

Gutierrez then introduced Ana L. Pulido. Pulido is a US citizen whose husband, Eliseo Pulido, is currently facing deportation. Mr. Pulido was denied citizenship for prior removal. Just like many, he made his way back to his family only to await deportation yet again. Mrs. Pulido and her three sons stood in front of the gathering dressed in black and red.



Photo by QUINTANA WOODRIDGE

The Lino family testified about the effects of deportation at the town hall meeting at Saint Pius V. Catholic Church on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008. The mother Alexandra (center in blue coat) was being deported back to Mexico.

**H**e is a great father and hardworking carpenter in the Carpenters Local 839. If he is taken from our family, I may not be able to support my three sons while paying for my house and other bills."

**- Ana L. Pulido, wife of Eliseo Pulido currently facing deportation.**

back. The young people need to stand up for their parents and say enough is enough." Cheers rang out among

"again. Mrs. Pulido and her three sons stood in front of the gathering dressed in black and red.

"I'm upset at the thought of my family being separated," said Mrs. Pulido. "He is a great father and hard-working carpenter in the Carpenters Local 839. If he is taken from our family, I may not be able to support my three sons while paying for my house and other bills.

"Please don't tear our family apart," said Mrs. Pulido as she and her sons went to take their seats.

## Immigration Concerns

by Kay F. Carter

A national coalition of Jewish organizations has recently been calling for an end to raids by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) department on work places that hire undocumented immigrants.

I recently talked with Irene Lehrer Sandalow, director of Outreach and Education of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs here in Chicago. JCUA is one of the groups involved in this campaign.

**Residents' Journal:** Can you talk to me about the raids that are carried out by ICE?

Lehrer Sandalow: These raids are done in the early dawn by heavily armed men on unsuspecting families who want nothing more than to work



given out to the immigrants for higher education. The immigrants have no support system in place that will help them succeed in getting and maintaining the basics of life, such as housing and jobs.

**RJ:** Your group is seeking comprehensive immigration legislation to be enacted during the first 100 days of the Obama administration. What kind of legislation does the group desire?

**ILS:** We are petitioning for legislation that will give the immigrants financial aid, bilingual education and fair housing practices.

**RJ:** Your group is collecting 10,000 signatures on a petition. What is going to be done with the petitions?

**ILS:** We plan to present these petitions to President

**T**hese raids are done in the early dawn by heavily armed men on unsuspecting families who want nothing more than to work and take care of their families."

**- Lehrer Sandalow, Director of Outreach and Education, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.**

and take care of their families.

**RJ:** What effects do these raids have on the families?

**ILS:** After one of these raids, some family members are deported and some face criminal charges.

**RJ:** You stated that the (undocumented) immigrants are being deprived of their chance to succeed? What do you mean by that?

**ILS:** The children of the immigrants are deprived of a bi-lingual education. There are no student loans to be

Obama.

**RJ:** When?

**ILS:** We plan to present these petitions to President Obama around April 8, during Passover, when the Jewish community celebrates their freedom from bondage.

**RJ:** How will you present the signatures, in person or by letter?

**ILS:** We are planning a press conference. We are still in the planning stages on how we will present the signatures.

## RJ Staff Member Honored During Black History Month



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**Residents' Journal reporter Clemolyn Brinson, along with Devon Whitmore, the deaf & hard of hearing coordinator at Access Living, were both honored by the organization's (for those with disabilities), Black Caucus in celebration of Black History on Feb. 20, 2009. Brinson is a artist in residence there.**

# An Inside View

News and views from Little Village Lawndale High School, South Shore School of Leadership and Ujima

## Born Out of Struggle (Part I)

by Carmen Alvarez

The Little Village Lawndale High School was born out of a struggle, the 19-day hunger strike of mothers, grandmothers and students who knew the neighborhood needed a new high school and who were willing to fight for it. One of the schools within the school is Social Justice, where students learn about these kinds of struggles. As we all await the first graduation ceremony, here is what some Social Justice students have to say about their experiences and where they see their lives going.

Part I: Maxi Granja and Gloria Campos

Q: What are some real life connections you have made by what you've learned in social justice high school?

Maxi: Well, in Rico's class, we've been learning mathematics and how we can apply it to real life situations. Like in the Jena Six situation, we were able to find the probability of the jury being an all-white jury out of the whole population in the Jena community. So that's the way that we related it to real life situations and mathematics.

Gloria: Well, in our chemistry class with Mr. MD, we have connected science to real life issues. Like say we use cream: There could be chemicals in there and since we apply it to ourselves, we're affecting our bodies. So we found ways to use healthy substances to make a cream that won't harm our body and we also did that with lip glosses and we helped other people learn how to make different lip glosses because many (commercial products) have different things that can harm our bodies.

Q: What are some things you have improved in and why?  
Maxi: One thing I have improved in is speech giving. I used to hate giving speeches and I used to be a nervous wreck while I was giving speeches. So I think I've improved and just overall, I've become more outgoing because I used to be shy and just really quiet. And now I think I've come a long way from that. I think I'm more outgoing now, hopefully.

Gloria: I also think I've improved in my communicating skills because before I would also get nervous being in

front of audiences. But now I can present in front of audiences without being nervous and I'm communicating with more people now. Also, before I used to hang out with only a certain type of people but now I talk to more people because I know you can get different feedback from different types of people. Before I might have been close-minded, I guess, but not any more, because now I know that different people live in the community. I've gotten to meet new people and that's cool.

Q: What are some things you regret not having done in your four years of school?

Maxi: Over the four years of high school, I regret not getting more involved with extra curricular activities. I've only been in a few and I've found out that they're really fun and they're a good way for me to spend my free time. I just wish I had gotten more involved so I'd have more to put in my college applications.

Gloria: Something I regret not doing is not joining volleyball in my first three years of high school because I really enjoyed it when I was in grammar school. I noticed that in high school, I started becoming lazy. Starting since freshman year, I started becoming lazy and I just didn't want to

join sports but I wish I would have done it, because I know that I would be a better player now that I'm in senior year. I also wish I would have talked to more people because I think I would have grown more as a person. And I also regret not getting applications early for college and looking into colleges more, because I've noticed that now, in senior year, I got more stressed out and every-



Gloria Campos

thing just piled up and I felt like I couldn't do anything. So I wish I had started early on that.

Q: What are some things that held you back from performing your best in school?

Maxi: The main thing that held me back from performing my best in school was the transition between the amount of homework we get from elementary school teachers and high school teachers. It became a lot more in the work length and I wasn't used to it. So, I gave in to laziness and I decided not to do my homework for a majority of the time during my freshman year. But eventually, I got used to it and started doing my work with a lot more effort and that's it.

Gloria: Well, one thing that affected me was, at first, in freshman year, I started getting used to being in high school and then in the middle of freshman year, my dad passed away. So that was something that affected my school work. But even though I was grieving, I still tried to do my best because I knew that he wanted me to do my best. Now, sometimes I still grieve and sometimes it still affects me in school but I just keep trying to do my best.

Q: What helped you stay in school?

Maxi: My brother was the main reason I decided to stay in school. Well, it wasn't really an option whether I stayed in school or not. It's just that my parents are like, 'You're going to go to school and that's it.' But my brother played a big role since he is successful in school.

Gloria: Well, one thing that helped me stay in school was my mom because I feel that I really want to help her and the only way of doing that is by graduating and getting a good job. And also because I have four sisters and only two of them actually graduated from high school and went to college but didn't finish college and two of them didn't graduate from high school at all. So, I wanted to be different from them and actually get a good job and graduate from college and help my mom for the things she gave me, for the years. And I want to support her because without my dad, I know she needs a lot of support money-wise.

**Read Part II in the Summer Issue of Residents' Journal**

## The Obama Cave

by Javier Garcia

The Obama cave: October 30, 2008, located at 566 West Lake St. You go down the stairs in the dark then you see a bright light and the Obama cave is there, with its many rooms, Obama signs and the word "Obama" everywhere. The supporters show their love by coming in, signing up and making phone calls to get other people to vote for Obama and some going door to door.

Everyone is there: the young and the elderly; they work there day and night from days to weeks; just to make sure that they get your vote and others, 80-200 people come and help out a day. These were some of the people who took part in the campaign; Kate Samuels, Andy Kitaeff, Rodney Washington and Dough Stevensin. Samuels came from England for the campaign.

I asked Samuels what her opinion was on the election and she said, "I'm pretty scared, amazed, and those who are not scared should be scared. I'm kind of cautiously optimistic. Right now it is important to get the votes in to persuade people to register and vote soon. Right now it is hard for both parties, because to some people it is a habit to not vote or forget to vote. If this doesn't get done then there will be no true winner. We need to focus on getting the votes or the people to go to Indiana. We must work to get translators to get the votes from foreign people."

They wanted to get the people of Illinois to go to Indiana to get the people to vote for Obama because it was a swing state; it didn't know who to vote for. Since Illinois already would vote for Obama, they wanted their neighbor to vote for Obama too. Then I asked her are you worried about the polls being rigged. She said, "I'm not afraid of

the polls getting rigged because it happened eight years ago and the blame goes onto Gore because he didn't defend himself. We now have more protection on the polls." Every one seems happy but as the time draws near people start to tighten their shifts. "Whoever becomes leader can help America and the world, I think McCain is a great senator not a president," said Samuels.

My other interviews were with Andy Kitaeff and Rodney Washington. They had the same opinions about McCain. They both thought that McCain would not be a great president. Obama's issues are clearer, has great plans for change, and he reaches out to most of the U.S., connects more with the people; he seems more heartwarming than McCain, they said. McCain is still stuck in the same mind frame as the previous presidents, they said, he should use the money for our security rather than war conflict. We need to send someone new to Washington.

## Youths Take Charge

by Javier Garcia

Piotrowski Park, on 31st street in Little Village, is cool. On October 28, 2008 there was a program for youth voters or for young people to get involved in voting. These are some people who helped to organize this: Denise Olivares, 17, Jose Vera, 17, and Paulina Camacho, 23. Olivares said, "This program is to encourage youth to get involved in voting and get their votes. Also to get people to vote soon and keep the youth in mind.

This program talks about the issues, issues that

youth have or that are going around the community." Then I asked her if you were old enough who would you vote for and why? She said, "I'd vote for Obama because his policies are more for the people and a positive change."

Vera said, "The program is to get young people to register and to get their voices heard." He is also involved in another program called VPC, which means violence, prevention, community.

The program takes part in the community by helping to solve some of its problems and fundraise. I asked him who would you vote for and he said, "Whichever candidate provides more promises, but

Obama provides change." I asked Camacho who would you vote for and she said, "I would vote for Obama because I agree with his policies and he pays attention to the needs of the country. It seems McCain wants to continue the years of oppression the U.S has been through, the war."

The place was cool because there was breakdancing and music. Some of the young people who were there were the ones breakdancing and watching. The moves and the music went together. It looked like some old school moves and beats. The classics never die, they just get tweaked a little.

# A Special Section produced by the Urban Youth International Journalism Program

## Inauguration

by Alexis Hudson

Whether Democrat, Republican or Libertarian, whichever party you call your political home, they all celebrated Illinois' native son Barack Obama's victory. The biggest party in Washington DC history took place on January 20, 2009. The inauguration of Barack Obama made history, since he was elected the first African American president of the United States. Every hotel in Washington was booked. Washington resi-

dents left their apartments so that visitors could rent them for their stay in the nation's capital. Record numbers of spectators attended the ceremony. Among those attending were some Chicago public elementary school students that were given tickets by US Senator Roland Burris. Other tickets were awarded by US Rep. Danny K. Davis. In an effort to stop the tickets from being copied, the US Congress passed a law that forbids the tickets from being duplicated. The new president and first lady danced to Beyonce singing "At Last," the song made famous by Blues icon Etta James. Aretha Franklin sang

"My country 'tis of thee" during the inaugural ceremony. With more than one million people in the nation's capital and more troops than there are in Iraq, there were no incidents reported in or around the inauguration premises. That's a big surprise on the biggest day in American history. The Obamas had big plans in the night. Michelle and Barack Obama visited 10 inaugural balls throughout Washington D.C. First daughters Sasha and Malia had plans of their own: they celebrated in their new home with friends watching Disney movies "High School Musical 3" and "Bolt."

## Is South Shore Clean?

by Cass Morgan

South Shore is not as clean as it could be. Why? Because the students are so careless. They throw garbage on the floors and they complain because it's very nasty. The bathrooms could be cleaned better but because everyone wants to be nasty, they stay dirty. If the students just put everything in the garbage cans instead of the floor, it wouldn't be that

We can solve the whole issue by just being sanitary people. We can recycle and help conserve energy everywhere.

be much cleaner. Everyone makes a mess and doesn't want to clean it up. They leave trash

messed up and didn't do right when you had the time to do it.

One day, you will look back and see night school is not fun. When all your friends are outside having a good time going out, you have to go to night school for four to five hours thinking about how you should have done the work the first time around.

"I spend my time in night school thinking I should have done this the first time around," junior Victor Griffin said. Night school runs from 3:45pm to 7:45pm Monday through Thursday. Many students take class-

We have healthy foods but it doesn't outweigh our other foods. Kids do have a popular vote in the food. You have to eat lunch

Kids do have a popular vote in the food. You have to eat lunch during school. You eat what you like, which is usually unhealthy food.

during school. You eat what you like, which is usually unhealthy food. The school serves and sells it to help raise money for us. But

cially the ones that need the most help

KS: Why do you think the kids like you?

MS.G: To some extent, I think it's because they see I understand their struggle and because that we open up to one another.

KS: Why did you choose to teach social studies?

MS.G: I like to teach and talk about justice and I want to teach students that individuals can make a difference, even if it's just a small one.

on the tables, floor and even around the garbage cans. People aren't even aware that these hazards cause problems like mice and roaches. When those pests show up, then everyone will really complain. When the school fails the health inspections and we

have to have cold food, it will be our fault.

We can solve the whole issue by just being sanitary people. We can recycle and help conserve energy everywhere. In order to change the school from being the place it is, we first have to be willing to change ourselves.

es all four days, making it seem as if they are living at school. "Twelve hour days tend to add up," said senior Krystal Spencer.

For some, four days of night school is required in order for them to graduate on time. "I am taking two classes this semester of night school in order to be on track to graduate," said junior Trena Fleming. These students all are working extra hard to make up classes they failed the first time around. The choice is up to you: play now, but pay later.

students also sell healthy food like fruit bars,

Rice Krispie Treats and Fig Newtons: these are some things that some suburban schools have. This also shows that the government cares for them more because they're looking out for their health. Also, their lunch menu is different. It consists of more variety of salads, strawberries and veggie burgers.

KS: Do you have any pets?

MS.G: All Dobermans, Mr. Otto, Middle Puppy and Fergie (Ferg Berg)...rescued 4/08. My dogs by day, Doberman ninjas by night.

"Every day you take on hardship and adversity...you endure. You remain strong...keep going and still manage to smile. Because of that, I do not only teach you, you teach me too! You fill my life with meaning and give me a sense of purpose."

- Ms. G

have seen many adults and several 18-year-olds coming out to vote, to voice their opinions.

The Park is also very decorated with the spirit of Halloween just around the corner. In today's world every vote counts. I am on the main stage where I am seeing the break dancing club from LVLHS.



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**Elizabeth Jordan**  
**Marcus Lane**  
**Patricia Gurley**  
**Reginald Kizer**  
**Tatiyana Sanders**  
**Takila Hasan**

## Teacher of the Month

by Krystal Spencer

KS: Why did you come to this school?

Ms. G: A professor of mine worked with inner city youth and his stories inspired me.

KS: If you could, what would you change about your classes?

Ms. G: I would spend more time with my students so I could get through to them, espe-

cially the ones that need the most help

KS: Why do you think the kids like you?

MS.G: To some extent, I think it's because they see I understand their struggle and because that we open up to one another.

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"Every day you take on hardship and adversity...you endure. You remain strong...keep going and still manage to smile. Because of that, I do not only teach you, you teach me too! You fill my life with meaning and give me a sense of purpose."

- Ms. G

## The Scene

by Christian Contreras  
**Special from Lawndale/Little Village**

Lillian Piotrowski Park is one of everyone's childhood memories. Every day that has decent

weather you can find the park full of kids. Whether it's on the playground or in the gym or the pool. Today at this fine establishment is Early Voting.

Everywhere I go around the park there are banners or posters about Early Voting today. I

### Memories of R. Taylo

by Reginald Kizer

The Robert Taylor Homes, a South Side public housing complex where 27,000 people once lived on 92 acres, was a place where many people had life experiences. Its 4,300 units were home to residents who all were hurt when it was destroyed.

Now, the Robert Taylor Homes are nothing more than a book of memories—just a pile of dirt, bricks and cement. Since the Robert Taylor Homes are gone, the once-drawn-together residents have scattered all over Chicago. Some even went to live in the suburbs.

My experience of having to move to a whole new

area was like moving to a whole different state or city. To me, the Robert Taylor Homes were very life preparing. Living there taught me how to speak up for myself, learn the value of family, and to enjoy life. I learned to care for people who surrounded me because we were all like family.

It also better prepared me for making it in this world without relying on my parents and family to help me so much. I learned how to be independent by playing basketball with other people who were my age and older. Another way I learned how to be independent was by walking to and from school by myself, which I had to go around other Robert Taylor buildings.

So for me, living in the Robert Taylor Homes, 5135 S. Federal, to be exact, was the best experience that has

happened to me so far in my life and it was probably even better for others.

Many people who lived in the Robert Taylor Homes would say their experiences of living in what was known as “the projects” was better than the creators intended.

I interviewed my cousin on his experiences of living in the Robert Taylor Homes and he said, “Living in the Robert Taylor Homes, my one and true home, was what prepared me for facing the world. It taught me how to provide for myself and not to depend on a lot of people. It taught me who I could really trust and not let everyone get close to me. I learned other fundamentals like how to play ball, rap and to dream of a better life.”

So you see, “the projects” were not just a low-budget place. They taught other people life-long lessons.

### Voice of the Voiceless

by Tatiyana Sanders

Longtime community activist, organizer and veteran journalist Beauty Turner passed away on December 18, 2008. Referred to by many as voice of Chicago Housing Authority residents, she was known as a writer and fighter.

Turner died of complications due to a stroke. It was tragic that Beauty Turner had to leave this world at the early age of 51, but she will be remembered by her outstanding voice and that she fought for what's right.

Beauty Turner let CHA residents' voices be heard by speaking in front of crowds of people, advocating on their behalf, and writing in newspapers what the residents wanted to say but were too scared to say themselves. Beauty didn't bite her tongue. She said what many people eagerly wanted to hear. She devoted her life to CHA residents day in and out. She only thought about how she could help her CHA residents.

Beauty Turner knew where we all came from. She lived alongside other families living in low-income homes, better known as “the projects.”

Turner's nephew, Marvin Robinson, said his aunt was an empowering figure.

“She affected so many people,” Robinson said. “She gave voice to the voiceless. Her legacy still affects public housing.”

Although Turner was successful journalist who commonly wrote for community newspapers, it was her activism that truly defined her.

“She was known for action. Her action was more powerful than her journalism,” said Robinson.

Robinson believes that his aunt's independent spirit will instill determination and conviction in those who learn about her.

“She was kind—an angel,” he said. “She cared for many people. Her death is not a loss—it's a gain for many now that she works in spirit.”

Micah Maidenberg, Editor of the Chicago Journal, worked with Turner at Residents' Journal. Micah met her five and a half years ago when he started at Residents' Journal.

“Beauty Turner was the type of person CHA residents turned to when they could not talk to anyone else,” said Maidenberg. “She demanded answers. She held the power of policies and people who work for the city.”

Beauty accomplished many things to help CHA residents. For instance, she started Beauty's Ghetto Bus Tours to show what life was like in the projects and to show the new, up-coming buildings.

She helped many Robert Taylor residents fight incorrect electric bills. When the residents were being put out, they were almost forced to pay thousands of dollars but with the help from Beauty, she forced ComEd and CHA to clear out the bills.

“She also highlighted the struggle of former offenders,” recalled Maidenberg. “Beauty Turner was known for her creativity and voice. Beauty was a talented lady. She willingly used her voice and writing—she even went on cable television to let her voice be heard.”

I spent a lot of time in the last couple of months learning about Beauty Turner and what she did to help CHA residents. It was the most inspiring thing I have ever learned about someone. She taught me that, as a 15 year old, that I can speak up for every person, no matter the size or crowds.

It makes me sad to know I never got a chance to meet her and ask her the question, “How did you do it?”

Speaking in front of thousands of people to help others out—I'd like to tell her how and why she inspired me to do something like that one day. But maybe, when I get enough confidence in myself, I might be able to stand in front of many to help them out.

My family lived in the CHA's Ida B Wells Homes and I feel Beauty, in some way, has also helped us out too. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and success.

African-American communities are more likely to have the largest total years of life lost due to deaths from diabetes. As well, white communities that have an imbalance of food environments also have a large number of residents perishing prematurely from diabetes.

The study shows that low income African Americans are the most disadvantaged when it comes to having balanced food choices. They also travel the longest distance to any kind of food store. Most of Chicago food deserts are in low-income African American communities.

In an average black community, the closest grocery store is approximately twice the distance as the closest fast food restaurant. The food desert situation contributes to many African Americans buying unhealthy food because that's what they mostly have access to.

According to the study, six out of 10 American adults are overweight and nearly one in three are obese. Half of all meals are consumed outside of the house, mostly at fast food restaurants.

they want.

It's essential that I work hard so that I can take care of my baby sisters so they can have a better life than I do. I want them to feel loved and feel that they always have chances in life.

My friends stress me out because I don't know who are my real friends and who are pretenders. I am just so tired of being hurt and lied to. At times, I feel I deserve this because I have done some really bad things I know that I shouldn't be proud of. But must I feel this bad?

I could try to take the easy way out and kill myself but I have realized that is not for me and not the answer. I have to make it. I just have to for my sisters—they are just too important to me.

I love my mom. I really do. I just feel something is

eventually going to happen. She has multiple sclerosis and diabetes. I am so scared of what's going to happen. I don't agree with my mom all the time. I feel she goes out too much but I still love her from the bottom of my heart.

Every day, I feel I have so much to do. I want to make sure I don't disrespect my mom but still try and let her know how I feel.

Also, I feel like I have to try and make everybody else happy and it's very hard but I really want to.

Another hard thing is that I don't have a job and I need one to help myself out sometimes. I also want to help out my mom with bills but it's hard when you don't have a job.

**(Continued on Next Page)**

## A Day in the Life of a JROTC Cadet

by Patricia Gurley

A typical day at Chicago Military Academy in Bronzeville begins by waking up at 6 am, or 5 am if you have to take the train. When you get to school, you can rack up demerits, which are penalties, for not wearing black hats, scarves or gloves—and this is not a good thing.

If you can, eat breakfast in the morning, go to your locker and put away all your things. Afterwards, go down to formation where all the students meet up.

Formation is when each company stands in a platoon or a group by JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) periods and grades. The Battalion Commander calls out different commands and you have to do them every morning. The band then plays the "Star Spangled Banner" and all the cadets salute to the American flag.

## CPS Fan Restrictions

by Marcus Lane

While I was standing in the lay-up line during pre-game warm ups at a recent away game at Dyett High School's gymnasium, something was very different than previous games. My high school basketball team, Wendell Phillips, was playing a game at 3:30 p.m.—an early start time we were not familiar with.

I looked up and around the stands and saw Dyett fans screaming, "Go Eagles," but not many fans screaming for our team. As I looked further around, I saw a big, empty space that looked as if it could hold a hundred people. In previous games, that space would have been filled with Phillips' fans. The gym was empty because of a new fan restriction that prohibited fans of the opposing teams from attending games, unless they were pre-approved and screened by the host school.

Calvin Davis, Chicago Public Schools' director of sports administration, instated this fan restriction the morning after a recent incident at Dunbar Vocational Career Academy.

## A Stacked Deck

by Anonymous

My life has been hectic from the start. I grew up on the East Side of Chicago and have seen things I shouldn't have seen and gone through things I shouldn't have had to face.

I am a 14-year-old female and I know life is hard, so dying should be easy.

I wake up every day with a smile on my face, not wanting to deal with the drama and headaches I face as a young woman. People don't know what I go through. They wouldn't even think I live the life I live, but I do.

I am a strong young woman and I do what I have to do to protect my family. I'm strong on the outside, but really, on the inside, I'm very scared.

When I was a baby, my father left my mom and I. He has three other children, other than me, and adores them so much. I used to hate my mom and always wondered what she did to him, for him to not want to be around me. The only time I would ever see him was when I was over at my siblings' house, and that was rarely.

Every time I would see him, he would give me that same old speech about how much he loves me and said:

## Where I'm Coming From (Continued)

I feel like I am not loved and I don't know what to do. I also know that I am not the only person who has problems in this world. I wonder sometimes if I can find somebody that I can just talk to and tell that person how I feel? But honestly, I really don't feel comfortable telling people how I feel. I try to talk to my friends but I don't feel they understand where I'm coming from. I don't want them to look at me differently but I would like them to see

After formation, you attend eight class periods like any other high school, one being lunch. For lunch you go downstairs and do formation again to see who eats chow first, as they say.

One class every student has to take is JROTC and on Fridays, gym is during your JROTC period. You learn about having respect for yourself and others and you also learn about the history of the soldiers who fought in wars.

We also learn about what's the best thing to handle different situations. For example, if you are not passing a class, the sergeants will help you learn how to maintain passing grades. They will see what works out the best for you. They are very helpful and concerned about the student's problems.

The most important thing we learn is how to become a leader.

Yes, it's a military school. We have to wear green shirts, dark green pants and black boots every day Monday-Thursday. On Friday, we wear our gym uniform,

On the night of Jan. 9, a shooting incident at Dunbar High School occurred. Witnesses said that as some fans began leaving the school grounds during the basketball game, a car drove up. The occupants got out of a truck and started shooting into the crowd. Five people were shot. Three were in serious condition and two in critical.

According to Calvin Davis, the "incident at Dunbar was the breaking point."

Davis, who was a star basketball player at Dunbar from 1972-76, said during his high school days that the public league games were just as rough as they are today.

He recently told the Chicago Tribune, "It was just as hectic and rowdy when I played [...] I can remember a few games where players got into a fight, but there was nothing like the shootings we just had."

Davis said that although the Dunbar incident triggered the fan restriction, it was not created solely because the shooting happened at his alma mater.

"Though Dunbar is very special to me, it was not the sole reason," Davis explained. "There had been numerous other incident reports I had received throughout the season that detailed violent incidents that were occurring all around the city. It was time to do something to ensure that

"Daddy goin' change. I'm goin' build a relationship with you. I promise." But it never happened.

I got tired of waiting on him to change his ways. He was always in jail and even when he wasn't in jail, he still wasn't in my life. He lied so much it was ridiculous. That's why I hate—with a passion—people who lie.

Even though my father wasn't in my life, I still had a tight bond with my siblings, especially my brother. He always promised me he would never leave me like my dad did. He said, no matter what, we would always be together.

When I was eight years old, I was molested by my uncle and my brother was there, trying to stop it and protect me. He was there through everything, thick and thin. I had his back and he had mine. My brother has different ways of handling things but both of us have the same heart.

I lost friends and family members to gun violence and it hurts so much. I'm tired of all this negativity in the world. You know what they say—if it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger.

So I think when my mom asks me for money for bills, it makes me stronger. When teachers put so much stress and work on me, it makes me stronger.

where I'm coming from.

I also could try talking to my boyfriend but he might not understand where I'm coming from. I don't want him to judge me. He said he wouldn't do that to me. I really feel like I like him. He helps me out, is there when I need a hug and listens to my little problems. But I just can't find it in myself to tell him all of my problems, although I really feel that it is important to have somebody that you can talk to.

One problem I see that affects my life is that my family expects so much of me, it's hard to live up to their

green shirt and jogging pants. People like to judge us by what they think and how we dress, but they never know because they aren't in our shoes. At Chicago Military Academy, there are a lot of good and bad things.

To begin with, the Bronzeville Academy has a lot of advantages, like the uniform, learning about respect and gym once a week. The uniform is good to wear because you don't have to worry about spending money on clothes for school or trying to find something to wear every day. Some students get tired of wearing the uniform, but having gym once a week, you can wear your gym uniform.

Another good thing is learning about respect and discipline for yourself and others. This is important to my community and because it shows the type of person I am and how I'll react in different situations. It reflects where I came from and what type of people I surround myself with.

athletic contests were safe for spectators and for participants."

After his swift action, Davis had to answer to many angry fans who did not understand his intentions.

"The biggest misconception during this situation was that there was a fan ban," said Davis. "Fans were never banned. Schools were asked to screen all spectators, and pre-arrange visiting spectators. All students were also required to produce their student IDs upon entering. Adults were required to sign in and show ID as well."

Davis says taking these precautions lessened the potential for violence.

"This was designed to screen spectators and organize seating arrangements," he said. "This made events more organized and safer. Schools had more control because the principal could use discretion when determining who should be allowed to attend."

Davis plans on maintaining this positive impact in the future.

"Next year, we will be expecting schools to continue to screen spectators," he said. "Principals will probably be given the autonomy of playing varsity games as long as they have a solid athletic security plan."

Recently, my brother was accused of criminal assault. If my brother is convicted and has to go to jail, I wonder what that will do to me—kill me or make me stronger? It would be shocking.

I really want to hope that things will be all right but deep down, I know that things are not going to be OK. I don't want my brother to end up like my dad—another dead beat, poor excuse for a man. I have to believe and have faith in God and my brother too.

I used to question why I was dealt the cards that were dealt to me but now I just take the cards and play with them. The only thing is, if I lose this game, there are no re-dos or play-agains. It would be over.

I feel like I'm walking on eggshells. Everybody is putting pressure on me to know what to do and have the answer to everything. But I can't. They want me to lead in the dark tunnel and make it out.

I think my brother wants me to be the best for him and for me. I have to be strong for him, for my mom, and for my family. I need to set an example, because if I don't do it, who will?

I'm a strong young woman, not always because I choose to be, but just because I have to be. I'm just playing the cards I was dealt.

expectations. They want me to be the first female in my family to go to college and become something important in life. I have no problem with that because that's what I want to do but they don't want me to have a life. They want me to just go to school and take care of my sisters. I want to go out sometimes and have fun sometimes.

I only have one person who takes the right approach with me—my grandmother. She knows how teenagers act and knows I mean well but still need to have fun.

# Burge Victims' Attorneys Fight

by Mary C. Johns

Civil Rights attorney Locke Bowman recently accused Attorney General Lisa Madigan of trying to "dump" 5 cases connected to former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge.

Bowman, a lawyer with the Roderick MacArthur Justice Center who represents the torture victims as well as advocates opposing the transfers, said the cases were transferred to Madigan's office by a court order six years ago.

Interviewed in February, Bowman said the cases involve men who were convicted with evidence generated by Burge and officers under his command. Burge, who was fired in 1991 and is currently under federal indictment on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice, is accused of

interest because he was a former attorney for Burge. The court found this conflict of interest tainted Devine's entire staff, which included the current State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

Bowman said that Madigan is delaying the hearings on the men's torture allegations by petitioning the Cook County Circuit Court to transfer the cases back to the Cook County's Attorney Office.

Bowman told *Residents' Journal* during a Feb. 27 phone interview that Madigan just doesn't want to handle the cases.

"She's saying that nobody has a conflict of interest and she just doesn't want to handle it because she's too busy," Bowman said. "The concern is there are a number of people in prison who claim they were tortured by the

**T**he cases needs to be looked at, not shuffled back and forth from one prosecutor to the other."

- Civil rights attorney Locke Bowman

having directed torture of numerous suspects in the '80s and '90s. Some of those tortured received prison sentences of life while others found themselves on death row.

Bowman said that in 2003, the court reassigned the Burge cases to Madigan's office, finding that then-Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine had a conflict of

disgraced police commander...and officers who worked for him. And they've never had a hearing into those claims and they're maybe in prison as a result of torture. The cases needs to be looked at, not shuffled back and forth from one prosecutor to the other."

The judge in the court battle will make a ruling on April 7, Bowman added.

## Wrongfully Convicted Man Files New Petition for Justice

by Mary C. Johns

David Bates was wrongly convicted in 1983 on charges of murder, attempted murder and armed robbery and sentenced to serve 20 years. He was released in December 1995 after being acquitted of all charges at a new trial. The court ruled that a statement made by Bates after he was tortured by Chicago Police detectives under the direction of former Chicago Police Commander John Burge should never have been presented at trial.

With the help of Cook County Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, Bates filed a petition for a "Certificate of Innocence," a new legal process with the Clerk's Office that allows people to "receive justice more swiftly along with the financial assistance they need to help start their lives anew," according to a press release from Brown's office.

Under the new Illinois law passed on Sept. 22, 2008, individuals may file petitions for a Certificate of Innocence, if they had been wrongfully convicted, had their convictions overturned and were acquitted before Sept. 22, 2008. To qualify, these individuals must file their petitions by Sept. 22, 2010.

A judge decides whether to grant the order, and also decides the amount of money the wrongfully accused person can receive.

"If an individual was imprisoned for five years or less, not more than \$85,350 in compensation; for imprisonment of 14 years or less but over five years, not more than \$170,000; for imprisonment of more than 14 years, not more than \$199,150.

Once the judge grants the certificate, an order is

**N**ow, this new process provides a chance for more rapid relief for such individuals, enabling them to get back on their feet faster.

- Civil rights attorney Locke Bowman

entered for the Clerk of the Circuit Court to send the certificate to the Illinois Court of Claims," according to the data provided by Brown's office.

### Madigan's Take

Cara Smith, deputy chief of staff for Madigan, told *RJ* during a Feb. 27 phone interview that Madigan wanted to send the cases back to the Cook County Attorney's office because the conflict of interest with Devine no longer exists. The conflict of interest has nothing to do with Alvarez, she said.

"In the five cases we are seeking to transfer back, nothing has happened in the years that the cases have been assigned to us. The defense attorneys have not filed what's called the post conviction petition, and that's what frames what we should investigate. That's what tells us what the framework of the investigation should be. The ball is in their court," Smith said.

Of the 21 cases of alleged torture Madigan currently has, Smith said eight of them have been resolved and eight are pending, besides the 5 inactive ones they want transferred back to the County's office.

Smith added that Madigan's office has placed a high priority on the active Burge cases.

"We have and continue to devote an extreme extraordinary amount of resources to the handling of those cases," Smith said. "The attorney general takes her job as representing the state in those cases very, very, very seriously. And that effort has resulted in three of the men being freed. And we have eight other cases that are currently pending in the office that we are working on that we did not seek to transfer back."



Photo courtesy of COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK DOROTHY BROWN

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, recently assisted Davis Bates (third from right) with filing a petition for a Certificate of Innocence. Joining Clerk Brown and Bates are: (from left) Bates' attorney, Aaron McLeod, Johnnie Savory, Antwon McCullough, and Jonathan Jackson of Rainbow PUSH.

"I believe in the importance of the Certificate of Innocence for individuals like Mr. Bates," stated Brown.

"Without this assistance offered through the courts, the only option for wrongfully convicted and imprisoned individuals is to seek a pardon from the governor.

Now, this new process provides a chance for more rapid relief for such individuals, enabling them to get back on their feet faster," she added in the press release.

# Cops Fight Their Own Over Burge

by Mary C. Johns

Some Chicago police officers in early January 2009 denounced their own union's efforts to fund former police Commander Jon Burge's legal defense.

In December 2008, the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) union board voted to fund the 60-year-old Burge's defense on federal perjury and obstruction of justice charges for which he was indicted in October 2008.

Burge is charged for allegedly lying in federal court testimony about torturing many Black suspects in his custody during the 1980s and 1990s. Burge was never criminally charged for the torture allegedly committed by him and other cops under his authority.

At the press conference, officer Joe Shaw said he spoke on behalf of "a lot" of Chicago police officers against the FOP paying for Burge's legal fees. Shaw appeared Jan. 7 with two attorneys at the downtown Dirksen Federal Building after arguing in court against the FOP's funding of Burge's defense.

Shaw declared that FOP President Mark Donahue's decision to assist in funding Burge's corruption trial was "dividing the membership, jeopardizing officers' lives and destroying police and community relations."

He demanded that Donahue step down from his position immediately.

"This is a high profile case, and we don't want that type of indication going out to the community. We stand in lock-step with the community because we have this incident here. We do not support torture. We do not condone torture. We do not embrace torture. We will never support that type of behavior on the department," said Shaw.

Shaw said the FOP cannot afford to pay for Burge's fees, noting that the police organization has a little over \$5.5 million in their legal defense fund.

"According to the city," Shaw said, "when they paid for his legal defense, it was in the upwards of \$5 million and half to \$6 million. If that's any type of indicator, [Burge] will bankrupt our fund by himself. Not only to mention, it will open the door to his other cohorts who are responsible, that have not been charged at this point in time, to come forward and say, 'We demand that our legal fees to be paid for as well.'

"My only concern is the concern of the men and



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**Chicago police officer Joseph Shaw said (front left) as his civil rights attorneys(Brendan Shiller (back left) and Chris C. Cooper (center) with current and former cops looking on during a press conference at the Dirksen Federal Building on January 7, 2009.**

officer," Cooper said.

Cooper said the court case had been continued for the next day because neither Donahue nor anyone else from FOP showed up for court.

"The Fraternal Order of Police did not show up this morning in court. Judge Anderson did contact one of the [FOP] attorneys, and it has been agreed that this matter is continued until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning," Cooper said.

Shaw, who is a police officer of the elite Organized Crime and Narcotics Division located at the Homan and Filmore police district, also said, "It was an outlandish act on behalf of the FOP not to show up in court today.

"It's a total lack of responsibility, just another one of their ineffective services as being a leader in the department," he said.

Fraternal Order of Police Response on Funding Burge Trial FOP President Mark Donahue explained during a

December 5, 2008, he wrote that although "the Lodge by no means condones the actions that have been alleged in this latest round of charges brought against Jon Burge," the FOP Board of Directors would provide legal defense for Burge, who is a member.

Donahue also called the charges against Burge a "fiasco" by Chicago's "Corporation Counsel's Office."

Donahue blamed "attorneys and civic and political leaders" for "fueling the media with stories that have caused Jon Burge to be the 'poster child' of alleged police torture in this City for an entire generation.

"This same legal and political pressure is now the impetus for alleging perjury in statements made five years ago, by a 60-year-old man, about incidents alleged to have occurred more than 25 years ago - and it's not fair.

"This fiasco only lowers the morale in this Department which is at its lowest levels in my 32-year career. The bottom line here is that with the absence of solid evidence to convict on allegations of wrongdoing for the past 30 years, all that is left are the words of these convicted criminals and their spokespeople against the word of a Police Officer - and the FOP will stand with the Police Officer every time," Donahue declared in his press release.



Photo courtesy of FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

**Fraternal Order of Police President Mark Donahue.**

**FOP President Mark Donahue's decision to assist in funding Burge's corruption trial was "dividing the membership, jeopardizing officers' lives and destroying police and community relations."**

**- Chicago Police Officer Joe Shaw**

women who serve this city every day that's working right now. We should not waste our fund on him," declared Shaw.

Shaw added that the FOP membership dues have gone up to support of Burge and the other officers.

Brendan Shiller and Chris C. Cooper, two civil rights attorneys representing Shaw and another police officer in the case against the FOP funding of Burge's defense, sought a temporary restraining order ordering the FOP to stop paying the legal fees for Burge.

Cooper said during the press conference that the big issue here is "Burge's legal fees are being paid for actions that: One, were not within the scope of employment of a Chicago police officer and certainly did not occur at a time when Jon Burge was a Chicago police officer."

Cooper added that police officers who pay their dues to the FOP should expect that the lodge will have the money to defend them against "spurious claims" made against them by citizens and not spend money on ex-police officers like Burge.

"The good police officers in the City of Chicago deserve legal representation, and they do not deserve to be in a situation where the [FOP] is out of money because it's paying for the fees of Jon Burge who isn't even a police

phone interview why he was a no show in court in Shaw's case.

"You can tell Officer Shaw that the attorney in this case failed to serve notice for the FOP to be in court this morning. That's why the FOP wasn't there. We didn't know anything about it. Their attorney screwed up," Donahue declared.

A clause in the FOP Legal Defense Program handbook states that it will fund active members of the police force: "For any incident, arising from the performance of a police function which occurs while the officer is on or off duty, the FOP Legal Defense Committee (LDC) will provide legal coverage and representation, including referral to an attorney approved by the FOP and payment for attorney's fees and costs, for administration or judicial proceedings, including criminal proceedings."

But Burge is not a current police officer. He was fired in 1993 from the Chicago police force, though he is still drawing a pension.

Donahue told *RJ* that he wouldn't explain why the union was funding Burge's defense. "I haven't made any comments to any other press outlet," he said, referring *RJ* to a statement on the FOP's web site.

In the online press release by Donahue dated

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson

**M**any grandparents are finding themselves raising their children's children for a variety of reasons, which include incarceration of the parent, substance abuse and illnesses such as HIV/AIDS.

Willie Mae Durdon, who lives in Englewood, said she has guardianship of five of her grandchildren.

"I needed help with clothing and furniture," she said.

Durdon turned to Childserv's Grandfamily Support Program.

The program, based in Chicago, offers assistance to grandparents who have become the primary caregivers of their grandchildren.

"I have the furniture and the clothes, and I moved into [an apartment] building they were able to get me into," Durdon said whenever she needs to call on Grandfamily Support, they help her.

In a press release issued in December 2008, the California University Grandparent Caregiver Information Project reported that the number of children living with their grandparents increased by 50 percent in the last few years.

Generations United, an organization focused on improving the lives of children, youth and older people, reported that nearly 214,000 children living in households headed by grandparents reside in Illinois.

Childserv's Grandfamily Support Program extends help to families throughout Chicagoland. Many of these families reside in the Englewood and Austin communities and are living on fixed incomes, said Kimberly Young, a coordinator of the support program.

"An average senior's income is less than \$25,000 a year. These people were recognized as underserved," she said.

"They are taking on extra responsibilities with children who tend to have special circumstances and special needs, but are getting fewer services than somebody would if they were going through the Department of Children and Family Services."

The program provides support in many ways, said Young, from direct financial support from the organization, to meetings where the clients can mingle with each



other and provide information, ideas, consolation, etc. to another grandparent who might need it.

The two-hour meetings are held once a month at different locations throughout the city.

Augustine Tabb found out about the program while attending an event at the Westside Recreational Senior Center.

"I'm at the center quite a bit," she said.

"I saw the people gathering. Me, as I am, I wanted to know what was going on. And that's when I found out about the program meetings. And I've been attending the meetings ever since."

Tabb lives in the Austin neighborhood. She is raising an 11-year-old grandson with special needs and a 14 year-old granddaughter.

She said raising two children as a single parent isn't easy. She needed help physically, mentally, spiritually and financially, and said she received it all from the program.

Last year, she was able to get all the school supplies she needed, and the children were provided with gifts through the program at Christmas.

"We even get a chance to go out and have dinner without the kids," she said. "Childserv thinks about us as well. They have really been a blessing to me and my family. I have enjoyed being with them every minute."

Grandfamily Support offers advocacy support such as making sure the children receive specific school tests that they are entitled to, and making sure they're enrolled in proper schools, Young said.

The program also provides grandparents with community information such as food pantries, help with utility bills, needed healthcare services, and day camps.

Joyce Matthews, who also lives in Austin, is responsible for grandchildren ages 10, 14 and 15. Her sister, who is responsible for one of her own grandchildren, told Matthews about the program.

Matthews had adopted seven grandchildren. Four of them went to college and are doing very well, she said, but she needed help with the other children.

"The program helped me with beds and everything. And they helped me pay my rent. They helped with school uniforms and supplies, which I really didn't have the money to buy. It was a blessing from God."

Some people who are raising their grandchildren have no other support in the world, said Young.

"People who have not been able to take care of their children, for whatever reason, have dropped them off on these grandparents, and other family members either turn away or don't want to get involved. They just have us," she said.

"When somebody says they've gained emotionally or spiritually, I think that comes through their interactions and our support for them."

When the program helps a grandparent out of a financial emergency, it's called gap-filling, she said. "We call it gap filling because sometimes there is a gap between what you need and what you have. If they don't have the extra income, you can't tell a 70-year-old woman to get out there and get a part-time job."

The clients benefit physically because when there is a way to relieve the tension and stress, there is usually a change in them physically, said Young. Some of the senior satellite centers offer exercise programs and classes on relieving stress.

"We definitely have seen a lot of growth in our program as to getting people aware of our services. We've seen an increased level of participation. We can give a few dollars, but to see them come out and enjoy other grandparents is a success in the program for me."

Childserv's Grandfamily Support Program goes out to churches and community fairs to provide awareness about the program and the requirements of becoming a client. "Our Illinois contract allows us to serve 35-year-old grandparents," said Young. "Our Chicago contract is for people 55 and older."

The program does home assessments to make sure the children are living there, but a grandparent doesn't have to have documents showing legal custody. We don't turn any grandparent away."

## Child Sex Abuse: The Hidden

by Gail Dameron

**T**here is a hidden holocaust of child sexual abuse being perpetrated, according to ChildServ, a Chicago-based not-for-profit social service agency dedicated to assisting children and families.

On Feb. 23, I interviewed Stanley Hamilton, supervisor of ChildServ's Project 90 Program that aids children with sexual abuse issues.

**RJ:** You said that this is a holocaust in the United States. What do you mean by that?

**SH:** It just means that people don't want to talk about it. It's a hidden secret. It's being swept under the rug. It's such an emotionally difficult subject. But as ugly and painful as this issue is, society has to face the truth and work together to help these children so that healing can happen and the cycle of abuse doesn't repeat itself. That's where ChildServ comes in.

**RJ:** What ethnic groups of children are sexually abused the most?

**SH:** All ethnic groups except Asians. I'm not saying that it doesn't exist with Asian children. But so far, we don't have any Asian children.

**RJ:** How are children affected by the sexual abuse? And how can it be detected?

**SH:** Some abused children act out in wild and abusive behavior. Some of these youths need intense supervision to prevent them from repeating sexually inappropriate behaviors. We work very hard on ensuring that they receive the therapy they need on these issues.



**RJ:** Where are you finding the youths?

**SH:** They come from DCFS (the state Department of Children and Family Services), from abused or neglected parents.

**RJ:** Are the youth from predominantly low-income backgrounds?

**SH:** No. The children come from mid- to low-income backgrounds.

**RJ:** Do you think that some of the children's parents may have been victims of abuse themselves?

**SH:** Statistics suggest that 1 in 5 adult women and 1 in 10 adult men reported having been sexually abused in childhood. The numbers may be under-reported due to the shame, stigma and denial of being victimized.

**RJ:** Do you think that parents need to talk more to their children about prevention?

**SH:** We have therapy sessions on how to keep yourself safe from abuse with 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' on what's a good touch and a bad touch on your body.

**RJ:** Do you believe the children can live a productive life when they leave treatment? And what is being done for this change?

**SH:** We aim to position them to rise above the victimization and acknowledge the wrongness of sexual abuse. What we look for is small, progressive steps for

ward. We can help these children break the vicious cycle of abuse and be responsible, productive contributors to society as they mature into adulthood.

**RJ:** How long is therapy needed?

**SH:** That's the therapist's decision. One child might need long term. Another may need short-term.

**RJ:** How long have you been employed at ChildServ?

**SH:** For 2 years.

**RJ:** With whom were you employed before ChildServ?

**SH:** I worked with foster care as a supervisor for 18 years. Working with troubled children is incredibly rewarding.

ChildServ's Project 90 Program supports weekly therapy provided by a qualified therapist, monthly support groups, recreational activities and independent living conditions. Medication monitoring, experienced casework support, quarterly foster parent training and support groups as well as quarterly clinical reviews are all part of the program. ChildServ also has helps to heal children in the aftermath of children sexual abuse.

Hamilton shared with me the nightmare that some children had been though. It was unbelievable. While he was talking, I wondered how any child can survive this tragedy. But once he told me about the ChildServ program, I understood how a child could begin to heal. I didn't know that such a program existed. Can you imagine how many families have issues with abuse and don't know where to turn for help?

# Patients Protest Clinic Closures

by Mary C. Johns

**A**fter months of marches and protests, mental health patients and their advocates finally got their chance to meet with some of their public officials to plead their case about stopping four of their health care facilities in low-income areas from closing next month.

The mental health clinics all located on the South Side of the city slated for closure are: Back of the Yards, 4313 S. Ashland Ave., Beverly/Morgan Park, 1987 W. 111th St., Greater Grand/Mid-South, 4314 S. Cottage Grove, and the Woodlawn Adult Health Center, 6337 S. Woodlawn Ave.

The mental health services will be folded into the remaining clinics at Auburn Gresham, 1140 W. 79th St.; Englewood, 641 W. 63rd St.; Greater Lawn, 4150 W. 55th St.; Lawndale, 1201 S. Campbell; Northtown/Rogers Park, 1607 W. Howard; Northwest, 2354 N. Milwaukee; North River, 5801 N. Pulaski; and Roseland, 28 E. 112th Place.

The Roseland Mental Health Center will move four blocks southeast into the current Roseland Community Health Center, 200 E. 115th Street.

At a town hall meeting hosted by Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) and the Community and Woodlawn Mental Health Boards at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on March 12, the more than 150 participants, including union workers at some of the mental health facilities, prayed together, made presentations, introduced guest speakers, and heard testimonials. They also talked about picketing outside of the Chicago Department of Public Health later in the month.

The patients and STOP members sought out seven

health services out of the Department of Public Health.

Darryl Gumm, chair of the Community Health Board, said: "We're here tonight because we realize that if given the chance, treatment works. After there are records of many suicides, killings, robberies, assaults, crimes. I wonder what our records would show or our computers could show as to how many of those events were prevented due to community mental health centers. The other end of that question is what happens in our communities when those centers are no more? Has anybody considered that?" he asked.

Then some of the people drilled city Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Simon with questions and comments about the closing of the mental health facilities.

## *The Bout with Dr. Simon*

**D**uring his presentation, Simon said the city didn't want to close the clinics or inconvenience the patients. He said the city's financial crisis created the need for the clinics to shut down, and added that the city didn't have a public discourse on the closures because of a short time frame for which cuts had to be made. Simon said he considered various options to cut costs but ultimately decided not to

department was working to improve their performance.

"We have worked a lot at improving those systems," Simon said. "It takes time for people to learn how to properly use it and even though we're doing billing now, there are a number of errors that have to be corrected because there were things that were done that were a reflection of us all trying to learn this."

"We're not perfect."

But Simon's explanation didn't sit well with some of the audience members.

"Well, I appreciate your honesty," said one man in the crowd. "I just want to make it clear. What you said is 'We made a lot of mistakes.' And what we've learned tonight is that when people in the city bureaucracy make a lot of mistakes, two things happen: One, four clinics get closed on the South Side of the city. And two, the mayor won't talk to us. That's something to learn."

Fred Freeman wanted to know why Simon didn't inform City Council members of the need for cutbacks in his recent meeting with them.

"You're only talking about half of the cutbacks in the funding. The other half came from the city and you didn't tell, according to your testimony on Tuesday to the City Council, that this was going to cause cutbacks," Freeman said.

"There was a question in the City Council put forth to you in which you responded by saying, 'No, this wasn't going to cause any cutbacks.'

"Even if you couldn't provide the city the funding information that almost every other health care provider managed to provide, why didn't you explain that the cutback from the city funding was going to cause cutback in services?"

Simon said the cuts in the city budget would not have required the clinics' closure on their own. He said the state's budget cuts came after the city's budget passed last year.

## *State Employee Refutes Simon*

**I**n defense of state employees, Anne Irving, director of public policy of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), accused Simon of failing to work effectively with them.

Irving read from a Sept. 24, 2008 letter signed by Simon addressed to Dr. Lori Jones, a director in the state Department Mental Health Services, and said Simon's computer system was not up to par to work with the State's computer system.

**PATIENTS PROTEST CLINIC CLOSURES**  
continues on Page 22



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**Anne Irving, director of public policy of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), accusing Dr. Simon of failing to work effectively with them, during the townhall meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on February 12.**

**W**hen people don't get treated, it becomes a more costly process. It burdens the police department. It overburdens the hospitals...families, communities [and] puts people in physical threat and harm to themselves. We don't want that.

**- 20th ward Alderman Willie Cochran**

commitments from public officials in an attempt to save the clinics from closing. They asked for an immediate, indefinite moratorium on the closures of all mental health clinics in Chicago; restoration of the cut-backs in personnel; a doubling of funding for the city's mental health budget; full city council hearings on the clinic closures; and a meeting with Mayor Richard M. Daley or his chief of staff. They also asked city officials to tour the clinics scheduled to close on April 7, and suggested taking mental

leave clinics open with too few staff members.

"What service would it have been to have two or three people over here or two or three or four people over there? What good would that have been just to have a place open?" Simon said.

"Just because people are poor doesn't mean that they should be subjected to a second-class kind of service. And though we can't provide the services everywhere in the right way, then we will do it the right way we can in places that we can do it."

Simon also confirmed the reports that the Public Health department's new computer system was flawed, which created problems with billing the State of Illinois. In response to an audience member's question of how the billing problems affected the flow of the state money, Simon confirmed that the system's defects resulted in a reduction of the clinics' funding by the state.

"We made a lot of mistakes...that were not any body's fault," Simon said. "It was just us learning how to use the system."

"The two biggest cuts that we received were from the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois," he said.

Simon told the meeting participants that the health department's employees' problems with their new computer system resulted in fewer people being served. The



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

**28th ward Alderman Ed Smith and City Public Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Simon listening to patients and their advocates speak against the closing of the four mental health facilities during the townhall meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on February 12.**

# A Health Report on Aneurysm

by Quintana Woodridge

**B**eauty Turner, former Assistant Editor for *Residents' Journal*, died on Dec. 18, 2008.

Beauty's family found her unconscious.

They rushed her to the hospital, where the doctor told them that Beauty had slipped into a coma. An aneurysm had ruptured in her brain.

This was later determined to be the cause of her death. Among her many causes, Beauty fought to keep health clinics open in Chicago's low-income communities.

She was known throughout the low-income community for her hard work and her determination as an activist. Beauty Turner will be missed, but the illness that took her life will take the lives of many more.

To inform our readers so that they have an opportunity to lower their risk of developing an aneurysm, I spoke to with Dr. Anand Karsan, a physician at Mercy Hospital.

I asked him questions about Aneurysm that will help our readers be aware of how serious it is to take care of their bodies.

**QW:** What is an aneurysm?

**Dr. Karsan:** An aneurysm is an abnormal dilation or "ballooning" in a blood vessel, such as an artery. It is often

a result of some underlying defect, disease or injury. An artery is any blood vessel that takes blood away from the heart.

**QW:** Where in the body does an aneurysm occur?

**Dr. Karsan:** An aneurysm can happen anywhere in the body. The most common locations are in the brain, in an area called the circle of Willis, and in the aorta, the major artery that transports blood away from the heart.

**QW:** What causes an aneurysm?

**Dr. Karsan:** The greatest risk factor for Aneurysm is atherosclerosis, which is an accumulation of fat and cholesterol within the walls of blood vessels.

Risk factors for atherosclerosis include age, usually greater than 50 years old, smoking, hypertension, which means elevated blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, which means high cholesterol, and diabetes.

The more risk factors there are, the higher the probability to develop the disease. I should note that atherosclerosis is also a major risk factor for heart attacks.

Some other common risk factors include connective tissue disorders such as Marfan's disease, family history of aneurysm, and polycystic kidney disease. These are genetic disorders and are likely diagnosed at an earlier age.

**QW:** What are the signs one should look for that may

alert them in time to see a doctor?

**Dr. Karsan:** The following are the most common signs that an aneurysm has either ruptured (opened) or is rapidly enlarging along the vessel wall, which we call dissecting:

- Chest pain, especially that which radiates to the back
- Syncope, or loss of consciousness.
- the worst headache of one's life.
- a "thunderclap" headache, which is a sudden and severe headache.

**QW:** What precautions can be taken to avoid getting Aneurysm?

**Dr. Karsan:** Take care of yourself. Eating healthy, exercising and not smoking are important to prevent any bad outcomes.

It is also important to get proper yearly medical follow-up with a primary care physician.

Early treatment of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and other medical problems mean a healthier you.

We at *Residents' Journal* hope the information provided in this article will help raise awareness. If you have any questions concerning Aneurysm or any other medical concerns, talk to your doctor. It may save you life.

## Black History Tour Looks To The Future

by Jacqueline Thompson

**O**n Tuesday, Feb. 17, the Bronzeville Merchants Association, formerly known as the 35th Street Merchants Association, held a press conference and tour to which this reporter was invited.

In welcoming the invitation and attending the event, which started at the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center, 411 E 35th Street, I discovered news of truly monumental proportions.

On this date, the Bronzeville Merchants Association, a not-for-profit group of merchants who live and work in and around Chicago's historic Bronzeville community, announced the upcoming installation of four of ten obelisks.

These monuments will be located at two community gateways - two at 35th and State streets and two at 35th and Martin Luther King Drive - to celebrate the rich past and present of Bronzeville.

It is not commonly known that there were racially restrictive covenants on Chicago's South Side as late as 1947.

From 1916 until 1948, these covenants were used to

keep many of Chicago's neighborhoods white.

In language suggested by the Chicago Real Estate Board, legally binding covenants were attached to parcels of land varying in size from city blocks to large subdivisions.

The covenants prohibited African Americans from using, occupying, buying, leasing or receiving property in those areas.

There is a photo of a map in the Electronic Encyclopedia of the Chicago Historical Society used in a 1948 lawsuit, Tovey v. Levy, that dealt with covenants.

It shows that in 1947, covenants, in combination with zones of non residential use, had almost wholly surrounded the African American residential districts of the period, cutting off corridors of extension.

Many of the neighborhoods encumbered by racial covenants were subsequently settled by African Americans once the covenants had been declared unconstitutional.

The end of restrictive covenants made way for more freedom for African Americans to develop and establish businesses and buy or rent homes for their families.

The individuals who became successful in this era include a who's who list of African American millionaires: Madame C. J. Walker, Duke Ellington, Muddy Waters, Nat "King" Cole, Joe Louis, Etta Moten, John Johnson and many others.

John Woodson, one of the tour's 'History Consultants,' made certain that we were aware of the contributions to our history made by Anthony Overton.

Woodson said Overton's story is not well known and his original building still stands at 36th and State streets.

Overton, a former slave turned business man, founded the Overton Hygienic Company at that location in 1898.

He was also the founder of the Douglas National Bank and publisher and editor of the Chicago Bee newspaper from 1925 to 1946. During World War II, it was



Photo by JACQUELINE THOMPSON

**Members of the Bronzeville Merchants Association pose for the press prior to leaving their headquarters for the Historical Bronzeville Tour to sites on the South Side where 10 Obelisks will be placed honoring its history makers.**

run by women due to the shortage of men.

Overton's cosmetic products, the most famous of which were the Hi Brown and Nut Brown face powders, made him the first African American to sell products in a mainstream store, specifically Woolworth's Five and Ten cents stores.

Overton originated and coined the well-known term "Bronzeville."

Bronzeville is the neighborhood east of the Dan Ryan, west of Cottage Grove Avenue, north to 22nd Street to South to 40th Street. It was to this area that hundreds of thousands of African Americans came during the Great Migration from the South during the 1920s.

In 2008, the City of Chicago put two Gateways into the Bronzeville area located above and across the south-bound traffic lanes of King Drive at 24th Street.

During the tour, it was mentioned that Margaret Burroughs, a long-time resident of Bronzeville and historic human treasure, noted artist and founder of the Chicago DuSable Museum of African American History, believes that the term "Bronzeville" should be applied to all areas in American cities where African Americans live collectively. I agree.



Photo by JACQUELINE THOMPSON

# Longest Living ABLA Homes

by Quintana Woodridge

Mrs. Clementine Pettiford, 105 years of age, was recently laid to rest. Mrs. Pettiford was the longest living resident in the ABLA Homes community, formally known as the Hastings Street Housing Development. Mrs. Pettiford was a resident in the ABLA Home community for 65 years. She was born September 28, 1903, and died January 14, 2009. In her long life, Mrs. Pettiford has seen the world change dramatically, from President Theodore Roosevelt to the newly elected Barack Obama. Jacqueline Pettiford, Mrs. Pettiford's daughter, sat down with me and talked about

her mother's life.

"My mother was respected and loved by her neighbors," Jacqueline said.

"She kept many people out of trouble by looking out for them."

Jacqueline told me her mother had nine children, three sons who preceded her in death and six daughters, four of whom preceded her in death. Jacqueline, 64 and a resident of Chicago, and her sister, Helen Pettiford, 66, of



Photo by QUINTANA WOODRIDGE

Clementine Pettiford  
1903 - 2009

Michigan, are Mrs. Pettiford's only living children. Jacqueline and her daughter Tyena took care of Mrs. Pettiford up to her last days. She married three times. Her husbands preceded her in death.

"My mother was out-going and loving," Jacqueline said. "She had over 150 grandchildren and they all spent time with her over the years. She was in her right mind and she knew all of her family by name."

Mrs. Pettiford worked at Marshall Fields and Goodwill stores. She spent her later years at the Reach Community Center, a program for senior citizens. Mrs. Pettiford liked gardening and going for walks through the community. Jacqueline said her mother enjoyed her 105th birthday party and the family took a lot of pictures to mark the day.

"She was so happy at her birthday party and glad to see her grandchildren grown up. She will be missed and we love her," said Jacqueline.

## Residents Blame CHA for School Closures

Continued from Page 9

"The Abbott closure mirrors this same plan of attack by CPS in moving primarily CHA students from the north and shuffling them further south," said Andrea Lee, the Federation's education coordinator, during the press conference.

"This is a lack of planning on CPS' behalf. Now when Federation points out that they will need a neighborhood school somewhere along the northern end of State Street, the school buildings have already been turned over to Renaissance 2010 operators, where not one school priori-

because CPS wasn't doing this," said Lee.

"For many, the school is their stability when their own lives are immobile and they face challenges of low-income means, and yet Abbott helps children learn."

Lee reported that since the announcement of school's consolidation, Abbott parents and Federation allies made phone calls to the House Education Committee to support House Bill 363, state Rep. Cynthia Soto's proposal that calls for a one-year moratorium on school closings. Soto's bill also asks for CPS to form a facilities planning

If CPS cared about providing parents with real educational options, then they would offer them McClellan and Graham as a receiving school in their final and public CPS Board Reports.

- Andrea Lee, *Education Coordinator, Grand Boulevard Federation*

tized having attendance area boundaries and serving families that had been displaced, and CPS was OK with that.

"This is why we can't always believe that under-enrollment is the real reason behind school closures, and why facilities master planning is important. The Federation has formed its own facilities committee

committee to review a longer-term school closing and opening plan.

More than a dozen community allies wrote letters of support for Abbott families, including state Senator Mattie Hunter (D-IL), who supports Soto's bill.



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

Beatrice Harris, the Local Advisory Council president at the Wentworth Gardens public housing complex, talking against the CPS consolidation plans for the historic Abbott Senstacke Elementary School where many of the residents she represents attend, on February 11.



Photo by MARY C. JOHNS

Rekia Flowers, 8, a resident at the CHA's Wentworth Gardens public housing development and a third grade student at the Robert Sengstacke Abbott School, told reporters she didn't want to leave her school during a protest outside the school on February 24.

# How Should Replacement U. S. Senators Be Chosen?

by Mary C. Johns

Last month, state Rep. Julie Hamos (D-IL) sent out an e-mail asking her constituency to fill out an on-line survey with their opinion of whether Illinois should change its law to hold special elections to replace U. S. Senators.

In the survey, Hamos asked how replacement US Senators should be chosen in case of a vacancy. The three options to the survey were: if a special election should be held or not, or not changing the Illinois law and waiting for changes to the U. S. Constitution for consistency in all states.

This initiative came during the controversy surrounding new U. S. Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL), who was appointed by Governor Rod Blagojevich just a few weeks before Blagojevich was impeached. Burris is now under investigation "by both the US Senate Ethics Committee for ethics violations and the state's attorney of Sangamon County for a possible perjury prosecution," Hamos stated in the Feb. 20 e-mail.

Burris—once an Illinois Attorney General and the first African-American to be elected to an Illinois statewide office when he became state comptroller in

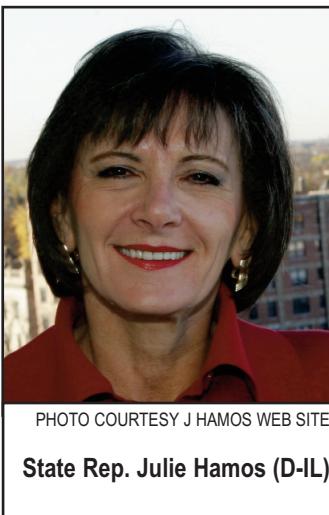


PHOTO COURTESY J HAMOS WEB SITE  
State Rep. Julie Hamos (D-IL)

1983—was chosen to fill President Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat by Blagojevich on Dec. 30 last year.

Burris first came under attack by the media, congressional members and others following the controversy surrounding Blagojevich's alleged attempt to sell the vacant Senate seat and "after the Illinois House of Representatives dropped plans to schedule a special election for the spot," according to the Blagojevich at the time.

Hamos, who voted to impeach Blagojevich, stated that she was thinking ahead to the next steps since "Illinois remains in political crisis."

Under current law, Burris will serve as senator until the November 2010 election. In the meantime, if he

decides to run for that office again, he will have to announce his intentions, file his petitions by October of this year, and then face the voters in the Democratic primary in February 2010, according to Hamos.

If Burris resigns, is removed by the Senate, or is convicted of perjury, another vacancy would occur in Illinois' US Senate seat, she added.

Also under current law, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn—who called for Burris to resign "for the good of the state"—would fill the appointment and that person would serve until the next election in November 2010.

To keep the job beyond 2010, Hamos said "that person likewise would have to face the voters in the primary election in February 2010.

"We could proceed immediately to change the state law to provide for a special election if a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate seat this year," Hamos stated.

To make sure that Illinois has the full representation of two U. S. Senators, Hamos added that "the law could be further clarified to provide for a temporary appointment by the governor until the special election is concluded."

## Patients Protest Clinic Closures

continued from Page 19

"We need to talk about accountability," Irving said. "And I have here a letter that you sent to...Jones, the director of the division of mental health in the state Department Mental Health Services.

"This wasn't about our folks having trouble working computers. The software that you've chosen to use was not compatible with the state's software and when we met with your office on Feb. 26, they still were not submitting bills to the state.

"And so the state said, 'If you can't get your computer software up and running which every other provider has been able to do, then we're going to take your money away.' Now, if that's happening in September, why during the budget hearings were you not coming to the aldermen and saying, 'We have a crisis on our hands because we made a

mistake and we're going to need some city money to see us through this problem?' That's the kind of responsibility we want to see on this issue," Irving added.

### Aldermen Promise to Carry on the Fight

Aldermen Willie Cochran (20th) and Ed. Smith (28th) were also on hand to answer questions. Cochran, who is against the closure of the mental health clinics, said the current economic hardship would cause mental stress for more people.

"I am in support of maintaining the clinics in their present locations," Cochran said. "This is not the time to close. It is the time to invest. We are going through all kinds of mental stresses in our economy today that are affecting families that have never been affected before.

"When people don't get treated, it becomes a more costly process. It burdens the police department. It overburdens the hospitals...families, communities [and] puts people in physical threat and harm to themselves. We don't want that," said Cochran.

Cochran added that he was fighting for more funding to restore the health care provider jobs, create more jobs, and keep all the clinics open.

Smith, who chairs the City Council's Health Committee, said he has a niece with mental health problems.

"I have no problem in going to Springfield or wherever to lobby...to try and keep these centers open," Smith said. "So, don't feel for one single minute that I don't care. And I will do whatever I possibly can to help make this situation form," he said.

## Independent Police Review Authority Holds First Community Meeting

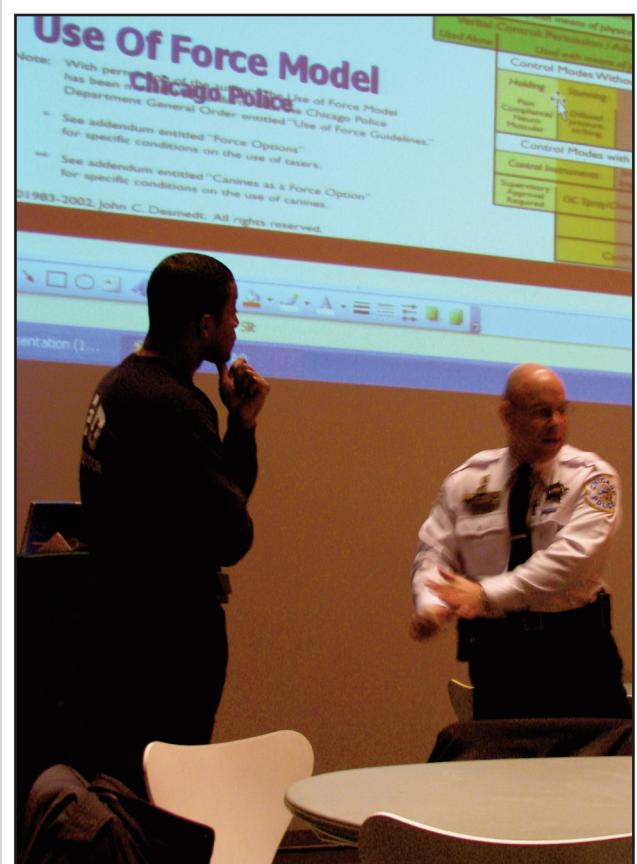


Photo by MARY C. JOHNS  
Chicago police officer Larry Snelling (left) looks on as Lt. Pontecore (right) discusses a tactical move for the potential use of deadly force on a suspect to members of the public, during the Independent Police Review Authority's (IPRA) first community meeting on January 26, 2009 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, MT Ballroom at 3201 S. State.

At the meeting IPRA also explained their role and process and address issues raised by the general public. The IPRA, an independent department of the City of Chicago whose mission is "to conduct fair, thorough, and timely investigations into allegations of excessive force, domestic violence, coercion, and bias-based verbal abuse made against Chicago Police Department members," was created by an ordinance in 2007.

## HUD Townhall Meeting with Senior Tenants

Senior tenants citywide voiced their concerns about their poor living conditions, neglected maintenance issues, and about being treated unfairly by their property management employees at various federal subsidized buildings. To, Chicago-based U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials at a townhall meeting hosted by the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Chicago Community Congress of Tenants in conjunction with Access Living on Feb. 19, 2009.

Photo by MARY C. JOHNS



# CHA Board of Commissioners Meetings

Chicago Housing Authority Board Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of Each Month and opened to the public.

The closed Executive Session begins at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Hearing begins at 9:30 a.m. The Remaining 2009 Schedule for CHA Board meetings are as follows:

March 17, 2009, at the Eckhart Park Apartments, 838 North Nobel

April 21, 2009, at the Wicker Park Apartments, 1414 North Damen

May 19, 2009, at the Minnie Ripperton Apts., 4250 South Princeton

June 16, 2009, at the Schneider Apartments, 1750 West Peterson

July 21, 2009, at the Flannery Apartments, 507-31 North Clybourn

August 18, 2009, at the CHA Corporate Office CNA Building, 60 E. Van Buren, Room 306S

September 15, 2009, at the Apartamentos Las Americas, 1611 South Racine

October 20, 2009, at the Vivian Carter Apartments, 6401 South Yale

November 17, 2009, at the Mahalia Jackson Apartments, 9141-77 S. South Chicago

December 15, 2009, at the Lincoln Perry Apartments, 3245 S. Prairie

CHA Committee Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 60 E. Van Buren, 3rd Floor, Room # 304, Chicago Illinois 60605-

1207  
1:00 p.m. for Finance Committee meetings

1:30 p.m. Operations & Facilities Committee meetings and 2:00 p.m. for Tenant Services Committee meetings on the following dates:

April 15, 2009\*

May 13, 2009

June 10, 2009\*

July 15, 2009

August 12, 2009\*

September 9, 2009

October 14, 2009\*

November 10, 2009\*\*

December 9, 2009\*

\*On these dates, Tenant Services Committee Meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

\*\*Due to Veteran's Day Holiday.

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. To confirm information, please call CHA at (312) 913-7282.

(Source: CHA Website)

## 2009 Official Candidates for LAC Elections

**Editor's Note:** These are the current certified candidates of this year's Local Advisory Council Elections for the four leadership positions to represent tenants of Chicago public housing communities on March 31, 2009, as provided by ALEXIS-BIVENS, LTD. - Community Empowerment Initiative, the CHA contractors hosting the elections. The names can change if any of the people listed below become disqualified for being non-lease compliant. The first name under each development lists the presidential candidates; the vice-presidential candidates; the candidates for treasurer and secretary.

<b><u>ABLA Homes</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Deverra Beverly <b>(Vice-President)</b> Annie L. Davis Craig V. Gordon Sr. <b>(Treasurer)</b> Justean Gaines <b>(Secretary)</b> Loretta E. Mason	Ariestede L. Steele <b>(Secretary)</b> Lena Wells	Juanita L. Stevenson <b>(Vice-President)</b> Freddie Hudson Vanessa Evans <b>(Treasurer)</b> Mildred Pagan <b>(Secretary)</b> Sandra Cornwell	<b>(Treasurer)</b> Dorothy Grant <b>(Secretary)</b> Charmeita D. Witherspoon Mary Baldwin	Rev. Odis C. Prince Jr. <b>(Vice-President)</b> Emma Davis <b>(Treasurer)</b> Claudia M. Elliott Donna Jean Thomas <b>(Secretary)</b> Hallie Ann Amey
<b><u>Altgeld Gardens</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Valarie Lynn Johnson Isaac Jackson Bernadette Williams <b>(Vice-President)</b> Beria Hampton Barbara Ann Brandon-Lawerence Samuel Hickman Jr. <b>(Treasurer)</b> Gayle Reed Rita Wilkins <b>(Secretary)</b> Marguerite Jacobs Debra Hollins	<b><u>Henry Horner</u></b> Charnae Harmon-Terry Crystal Palmer Victor Warren <b>(Vice-President)</b> Florence Wright <b>(Treasurer)</b> Susan Sago Willie L. Wright <b>(Secretary)</b> Keith Jackson	<b><u>Lawndale Homes</u></b> <b>(Vice-President)</b> Charlette Thompson <b>(Treasurer)</b> Bridget F. Remold	<b><u>LeClaire Courts</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Martha Abraham Natalie Scaffold <b>(Treasurer)</b> May June Powell	<b><u>Trumbull Park/Lowden Homes</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Myra King Rev. Learna R. Salaberry <b>(Secretary)</b> JuWann E. Jackson
<b><u>Cabrini-Green</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Kenneth V. Hammond Wyldoline Hampton Carol Steele <b>(Vice-President)</b> Maurice Edwards Johnnie Jones <b>(Treasurer)</b>	<b><u>Ickes Homes</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Gloria Williams <b>(Vice-President)</b> Martha Ann Norris <b>(Treasurer)</b> Barbara Southall <b>(Secretary)</b> Rhonda Ludy	<b><u>Scattered Sites North East</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Willie Burrell Mary Gill <b>(Vice-President)</b> Tracy Evans Maria Sopena	<b><u>North Lawndale Scattered Sites</u></b> <b>West</b> <b>(President)</b> Tracey Champion <b>(Vice-President)</b> Mary L. Garmon Jane Haun Kim	<b><u>Trumbull Park Homes</u></b> <b>(President)</b> JoAnne Harris <b>(Vice-President)</b> Carolyn Green Ethel L. Norman
	<b><u>Lathrop Homes</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Robert Davidson	<b><u>Scattered Sites East</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Francine Washington <b>(Secretary)</b> Lucille Watson	<b><u>Washington Park Scattered Sites</u></b> <b>East</b> <b>(President)</b> Darlene Day <b>(Treasurer of Lake Park Place)</b> Betty Thompson	<b><u>Senior Housing South</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Pauline Wesley <b>(Vice-President)</b> Linda Dent <b>(Treasurer)</b> Carole Folkes <b>(Secretary)</b> Barbara Darlene Gleeson
			<b><u>Washington Park Area</u></b> <b>(Vice-President)</b> Perry Casey <b>(Secretary)</b> Harriet Ann Johnson Alexis Imhoff	<b><u>Senior Housing Central</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Martha Marshall <b>(Vice-President)</b> Flora Rambo <b>(Treasurer)</b> Derrold McPhee
				<b><u>Senior Housing North</u></b> <b>(President)</b> Otta Henderson <b>(Vice-President)</b> Perry Casey <b>(Secretary)</b> Beatrice Harris

**Residents' Journal welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents. Please send all letters to our address: 4859 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago, IL 60615. You may also call our office at (312) 745-2682 to discuss your ideas for submission.**

**Advertise in Residents' Journal. For Rate Information Call (312) 745-2681**

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