The construction industry is booming in the Chicago area and qualified contractors are needed to fill the many opportunities now available, for residential and commercial development. But for Blacks in the construction industry, discontent continues. During the mid '90's activist Eddie Read championed the slogan 'If we don't Work, Nobody Works'—an on-going cry with Blacks in the construction industry. An on-going cry with Blacks in the construction industry continues in the 2000's with protest and demonstrations by many Black organizations striving for parity. The term minority, is a federal guideline that many organizations say has ceased the parity of Blacks in public works projects, that has filtered into the private sector. The term minority addressing Disadvantaged Businesses, Female Firms and others is mandated in meeting affirmative action programs quotas, Omar Sheriff of the African American Contractors Association says the use of the word Minority is leaving less work for African Americans in wake of their population. As Mayor Richard M. Daley boasts that companies owned by minorities and women received $619 million of City business in 2002, an increase to 41 percent of total City contract awards, far above the City's goal of 30 percent, a further look (Continued on page 3)

"Procoving the movement" Voice Of The Ex-Offenders' (VOTE) Movement

Ms. Beauty Turner Freelance Writer.

"Things" is how Alderman Toni Preckwinkle (4), Dorothy Tillman (3) and a host of other elected officials describe them. Words and actions very near Paul McKinley and Joseph Watkins leaders of Voice Of The Ex-Offenders (VOTE). "They are no compromising in the injustice of residents' parity in the mass development in Chicago". McKinley says in his movement for the people. "We see everyone, every nationality but us working in our mainstream.

The Primary Election Aftermath continues in the 6th District of Englewood; The Democratic Party subject to Replace a candidate as well

By Ron Carter Publisher and Editor

Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee is likely to be the fifth African American in history to the U.S. Senate. And for sure there will be one with the Republicans drafting Alex Keen to replace Jim Ryan.

A major advancement in Black politics weighting in on the political power in November. However, the U.S. Senatorial race did not over shadowed the demand for political accountability in the replacement of Patricia Bailey, Representative of the 6th District. Community leaders in Englewood and across the city called actions of the Democratic Party in light of the Chicago Board of Elections turned over to Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine evidence of felony charges of perjury and fraud against State Rep Pat Bailey. For the first time in history the board charged an elected official, (Continued on page 6)
Harold Washington's Center opens on 47th St.

On Tuesday on the corner of 47th and King Drive a host of political, business and community residents took part in the unveiling bronze statue of Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black Mayor took place.

The impressive 20 foot sculpture of the late Mayor Washington is the first of its kind located anywhere in the City of Chicago, African-American sculptor and artist Ed Dwight, jr. developed the statue.

The unveiling was part of a series of events held in honor of the grand opening celebration of the long awaited Harold Washington Cultural Center (HWCC), the city's newest entertainment and cultural arts facility. Kicking off the opening was legend Ray Ayers and blues master Bobby "Blue" Bland as 47th Street became "Chicago Blues District".

"The HWCC is an anchor part of the undergoing development on 47th Street. Its executive director jaimilia Tillman, daughter of the Alderman, Dorothy Tillman said the HWCC is to honor the strong historical legacy of the cultural and community spirit of both past community leaders and pioneers."

This building is a neo-classical design that boasts a 1,000 seat ComEd performing arts theater, a digital media resource and radio/television broadcast center. Future additions to the cultural center include a restaurant and banquet facility.

A schedule of events over August 17–21 is designed to introduce the facility that are free and open to the public starting August 17 at 11:30 pm. Tours will also be available. For information call 773-373-1900.

South Siders Organize for CTA Red Line to 130th

The Developing Communities Project, a major faith-based organization on the City's Far South Side, is renewing its advocacy for construction of an additional 6 miles onto the CTA Red Line to better serve communities all the way to 130th Street, questioning why the South Side project has been put on the back burner for the Red Line Extension. DCP has reached out to NCBG's Campaign for Better Transit to help them inform and mobilize residents and stakeholders about this important transit project.

South Siders have been waiting for 30 years, and had hoped that the Red Line Extension would finally move to the "short list" of CTA's priorities. But according to CTA officials responsible for its capital program, while the Red Line Extension was included in the long-range "2030" regional transportation plan (prepared by the Chicago Area Transportation Study agency known as "CATS"), it is not a "recommended" project because it currently lacks funding.

CTA views it as a "potential future extension," but has no current plans for this corridor underway. CTA has begun rehab of the existing "Down" line of the Red Line. That project will be done and funded in three phases - the first of which is under way. The funding will come from federal grants known as "Formula" grants, matched by funds from the Illinois Dept. of Transportation.

The New Circle Line

The plans to create a Silver Line in the short-term were buried in the CTA's and Mayor Daley's plans to build a "Circle Line." The complete build-out of the Circle Line could cost as much as $2 billion, and would build new elevated tracks south to Bridgeport and a new subway under South Lake St. The Campaign for Better Transit has objected to CTA's new Circle Line proposal, saying that City Hall and CTA are ignoring the current transit needs of neighborhoods, such as providing more bus service on the South, South and West Sides, building additional rail stations on the Green Line, building the long-awaited and nearly forgotten Mid City Transit Way, and extending the Red Line to 130th St.
Black Construction workers ongoing cry reveals only 10% went to black businesses, with 40% plus of the city population. With the State of Illinois contracts, the government reported blacks received 2% of its contracts and is 13% of the states population. Cook County government did not have the figures on hand and would only attempt to provide Black participation information under the Freedom of Information Act. There has been a consistent decline in African American involvement since the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program went into effect in 1982. Black contractors were over 6% of the work funded by the Federal Highway Administration. Today, its less than 1.4% of the work. Black organizations that address party issues such as Black Contractors United, Chicago Urban League, African American Contractors Association, PUSH Coalition are convening these officials meeting with Black contractors and business professionals. Omar Shareef, president of AACA, said the organization hopes to build bridges with the government agencies and corporations and remove walls of division that have prevented African American contractors from securing some of the contracts that have been offered during the recent building boom in Chicago and Illinois. Working with PUSH's International Trade Bureau and the African American Contractors Association (AACA), the 4th Annual African American Contractors Day, bringing the private and public sectors to the Black contractors at PUSH. "We are convening these officials to even the playing field and to seek our fair share," said Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. "This industry is about more than brick and mortar. It is about all kinds of opportunities for contractors and for those in professional services." PUSH Coalition is hoping to make some progress with leading government and corporate officials meeting with Black contractors and business professionals. Omar Shareef, president of AACA, said the organization hopes to build bridges with the government agencies and corporations and remove walls of division that have prevented African American contractors from securing some of the contracts that have been offered during the recent building boom in Chicago and Illinois. Working with PUSH's International Trade Bureau, AACA will help African American contractors obtain their fair share challenging banks to provide business loans to African American contractors. Charles Shanklin of SWAT, a black carpenters association says it is not as easy as that. Racism is alive and kicking. Shanklin suggested for Blacks to address the cry of impurity of Black contractors, "We not only should reach out to use Black contractors but report jobs that lack our own and report it to elected officials and organizations that should be accountable to the community."
Charges drop on Dr. Kuranga, "walking Dog while black"

Bronsonville—On June 26, 2004 Dr. Sokoni Karanja, head of Centers of New Horizons, left his home on 33rd and Giles to do what he does on a daily basis, walk his dog.

This time he was stopped on 32nd and State Street by the Chicago Police "Hey you," and intervened. Dr. Karanja was live in the area came to the scene 6 blocks confrontation with the Chicago Police. Officers then shouted at Dr. Karanja. "It has to be bigger than drug conspiracy."

Dr. Karanja told SSJ that his goal is to find those who have been similarly insulted, and report to the Chicago police, and mount a steady and continuous effort for police accountability.

"You see it going on and I have to stop to observe what was going happening?" said Dr. Karanja. "It has to be bigger than me, there are others that are victims that may not have the resources I have."

Dr. Karanja was represented by noted Atty James Montgomery.

(Continued from page)

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Black August
The Ethnic Disparity in Prison Populations

(Continued from page 4)

was subsequently elected bring his perpetrators to justice Patterson was determined to help to free him. He acknowledged to be still involved in gang activity. It was Patterson's third arrest since being released from prison. The others in the form of public upset. In January, he was charged with assault and impersonating a government official while urging people to register to vote. In May, he was charged with reckless conduct for allegedly shouting obscenities and pounding on police station windows during a vigil for a man who had died in custody.

Black August

Black August is an international observance started in 1979 dedicated to those who died in prison and at the hands of the state. Iconic that Patterson was at the first celebration for Black August on the 1st saying “The day of the Martyr is over.” In recent times, the County of Cook made an out-of-court settlement for $36 million as compensation for the wrongful imprisonment of four men known as the Ford Heights Four.

"Some fears are universal with the loss of a love one. But going to jail wasting away lives in prison for crimes they didn’t commit is a heartbreak as well. Said Ms. Smith whose husband Fred Hampton Jr. (773) 426-1540 was killed in jail in 1979. Shaka a comrade of George Jackson’s said that "The Black August organizing committee was formed to commemorate the assassinations of those incarcerated and to make the community aware of the terror inside jail.” In the press conference after the court for Patterson, Hampton using a statement of reminiscent of Malcolm X’s “This is the case of the criminals calling the victim the criminal.”

For more information contact Fred Hampton Jr. (773) 426-3900.
Election Politics continues in the 6th District of Englewood

Rep. Pat Bailey (6) was found by the Chicago Board of Election for filing her candidacy under a fraud address. Richard Devine Cook County State's Attorney turned the allegations over to Attorney General Madigan to avoid conflict of interest because Bailey's mother works for his office. Lisa Madigan State's Atty. General has not made any public moves on the case since its been on her desk nearing deadline for 2004 election. Michael Madigan, father of Lisa, is the State Democratic Party Chairman calling the shots for Bailey's fate. John Paul Jones, was encourage to run as an independent, but later turn down the offer hoping to give elected officials a chance to allow the community to have a say.

"It's clear to me that a vigorous debate on the issues that needs to be raised if she remains as a candidate," said John Paul Jones who was identified by community activists as an independent candidate. Jones later rejected the run, "I won't run hoping that elected officials do the right thing and included the people in the process with accountability."

Englewood residents were upset when Senator Margaret Smith retired from her seat and replace by Mattie Hunter, a non-Englewood resident. If charged and convicted, Bailey would have to surrender her seat in which Patterson said the voters are due for a special election and called for a federal investigation. Adding that State Democratic leaders should not be able to fill Bailey's seat. But party committeemen, Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd), Ald. Ted Thomas (15th), Ald. Shirley Coleman (16th) and Cook County Commissioner John Daley (11) under Michael Madigan direction would have a say in naming her replacement according to election rules. But there still is support for Bailey in the Illinois by silence on the issue.

"We had great victories out of the Democratic Party with Obama as a national candidate assisting in leading the importance of dumping President Bush," said Crosby. "But his winning did not insure the voting rights of the 6th District. As the deadline past to run an independent candidate for the seat, former candidates Keith Harris and Everloyce McCullough hinted as Bailey's replacement. No elected or public official has taken a position waiting for Atty. Madigan's findings on Bailey."

Veteran political organizer Bruce Crosby, of the Committee to Protect the Voting Rights contents that, "Bailey won the district but the people did not know really who they were voting for." Said Crosby. "Surely Devine and the Democratic party is part of another political crime. They knew she did not live in the district."

Crosby said the 6th District was key to the maneuvering of people and votes due to 2000 remap of the district, resulted in the election of Machine candidate Bailey in 2002 and 2004.

Bailey won the Democratic primary by more than 80 percent of the vote over her two rivals, Patterson and former state Rep. Jerry Washington. Bailey did not return phones nor has issued no statement regarding dropping out of the State rep seat in his of charges of vote fraud. If charged and convicted, Bailey would have to surrender her seat in which Patterson said the voters are due for a special election and called for a federal investigation. Adding that State Democratic leaders should not be able to fill Bailey's seat. But party committeemen, Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd), Ald. Ted Thomas (15th), Ald. Shirley Coleman (16th) and Cook County Commissioner John Daley (11) under Michael Madigan direction would have a say in naming her replacement according to election rules. But there still is support for Bailey in the Illinois by silence on the issue.
Dear Editor;

As the issue of Lesbian and Gay right to marry makes its way through Illinois, in the streets and halls of policymakers, in the midst of the debate and demonstration it is my hope that we use this opportunity to address the sober realities public opinion and actions.

Marriage culture in our society is that the couples are expressing their personal intent to care for and to provide for each other and any offspring as a result and debts incurred as a result of their bonding.

The traditional marriage fall to what society considers the dominant, more responsible, mature member of the union. Directly the intent is considered the male to provide for the couple and its offspring. This ideal is in today's economy of color and ethnic diversity is unrealistic and not practical. These ideals of marriage are sexist and discounts the contribution a marriage and the sustaining of a family whether one or both members work. It then can be determined that those that stand on the side of traditional marriage stand in opposition of the full and equal rights of women.

Those that claim some sort of religious content are in error. In not understanding that marriage from its beginning is a matter of state. Only recently within the last 1000 years has marriage been brought in to the church as a gift and a blessing. The forerunner of which was as documented by scholars as acknowledging one to die on the battlefields.

That is why there is value in address these concerns. Not in an attempt to simply replicate one segment of, but to liberate society of defining the intent and purposes of intuitions that values and empower all people in our society. In an effort to move this to a more tolerable place that will sure all people to achieve their fullest potential. Along those lines, in Illinois redefining marriage build bridges of freedom that closer to the State's pre-

We the people of the State of Illinois grateful to almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which he has permitted us to enjoy and seeking his pleasing upon our endeavors in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people maintain a representative and orderly government: eliminate poverty and inequality assure legal social and economic justice provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual insure domestic tranquility provide for the common defense and secure the blessing of freedom
Bringing About Reform
Tillman’s quest for Reparations should begin with repairing her own ward

Dear Editor;
Alderman Dorothy Tillman is accusing J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. of having past ties to slavery and “lying” about it on an affidavit. Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, how about a plan to stop the many alcoholics that’s drinking out of the same wine bottles up and down east 47th street in the 3rd ward?

Alderman Dorothy Tillman should strongly consider redirecting her priorities. For several years she has been focusing on Slave Reparations despite having the poorest ward in the city of Chicago with a strong sense of hopelessness among many of the residence in the 3rd ward.

As a proud African American, I am deeply passionate about the effects that slavery continues to have on our people. But at the same time, we must not allow Charlatans like Alderman Tillman to use that painful period in our history to offset their lack of commitment to rectifying the problems that affects our people more immediately.

If you drive through her highly problematic ward, you will see a high level of destitution with no change in sight. With her loud and verbose approach, Tillman has somehow managed to placate the voters on Election Day, which spans over several decades. Her luxury Cadillac Escalade is parked in front of her district office with prostitutes and drug dealers doing business right in her immediate vicinity.

For Tillman, the issue of slave reparations is just a smoke screen designed to divert attention from her ineffective leadership. Given the many problems that we face as African Americans, elected officials such as Tillman should redirect their focus and address the immediate needs of our people.

Perhaps Tillman’s over-sized hats are obstructing her vision to reform the perilous conditions that plague her ward.

Maxwell Street and Security

Dear Editor;

It is not just railfans suffering from excessive railroad security measures. Ever since 911 Metra has blocked off the northbound lanes of Canal St. with portable baricades in front of its control center. At least it does this every Sunday, when the relocated Maxwell St. Market is in session. This deprives the market of about a dozen spaces.

I have objected to this at Metra budget hearing and to Metra officials. The advisory board had toured the facility the previous month, the acting chairman allowed me to object to the practice.

Anyone with a truck bomb can drive right up to a chain link fence. Second, even on market day, it is no protection, as someone could easily approach the building from the south and remove the portable barrier4s, without the policeman in a car at the northy end. Third, it is a waste of a police8ceman’s time and salary, especially after the recent spate of kids getting killed by Metra trtains.

At his writing Metra police are still blocking off half of Canal St. It is a large topic;, but I think we have more to fear from Chicken Little security measures than from all the terroist bombings. Railfan travails are just a sampling.

William F. Wendt, Jr.
Terrorism 101, for Dummies

II - The act of terrorizing. A system of government that seeks to rule by intimidation. 3. Unlawful acts of violence committed in an organized attempt to overthrow a government.

Terrorism Color

For Dummies

By Donnell Robinson

The forefathers of the U.S. of America brilliantly amalgamate the Constitution to be the model for the world over 200 years ago. Even if most of them were slave owners. Those same blind morals of the constitution are preceding the constitution today supporting over 10,000 Iraqis dead — military, civilians, and families, and over 600 U.S. troops dead. Twice as many injured, greater than the mass destruction of the Trade Center, and the 9/11 dramas. With over billions of dollars spend on the War on Terrorism.

Some Americans were dumb enough to go along with the war on terrorism, just as in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was enacted as the forefathers believed in the Rights of all men while enslaving Black people. Because of 9/11, Americans rejoiced when President George Bush stood as the Texan Ranger proclaiming, “Dead or Alive”. It was the first attack of defense for the White House. Many Americans will not admit it, but it was clear the color of the enemy, just as it was during War World II of Japanese American citizens. Bin Laden committed an international crime on America. It was not a nation or country or government that caused 9/11, or even a single Mid-East people. Bin Laden knew the revelations that America would enter to innocent people of Afgantain, and on other Arab countries such as Iraq. He took advantage of the white supremacy, “The Ugly American” under George Bush. Black people from the beginning smelled racism and warned America not to trust and vote for Bush.

The Iraq people did nothing to Americans: 1) No weapons of mass destruction; 2) No evidence of a link between Iraq and al-Qaeda; and 3) The US media failed to represent the majority of Americans, who opposed attacking Iraq before weapons inspections were found and without international support from the United Nations.

And now, American businesses are taking over their jobs as well and the daily devastating sight of Iraq children burn from massive bombs that come from America. Surely the National Rifle Association and the KKK would publicly join forces to stop such actions here in the U.S. Americans hang burning from a bridge in Iraq, is no different than a tree in Mississippi. Journalist John Nichols claims: “If we had an honest, get-to-the-truth media, George Bush would not be president, and we would not be at war in Iraq.”

The death and devastation caused by the invasion is rarely reported on civilians casualties in Iraq or Afghanistan because, as Colin Powell says, “We don’t count the enemy dead.”

How dumb could America been? Not to see the White House is exploiting a tragedy for political gain. Now reports are that there is an uprising among the people in Iraq. A potential civil war. The media has abandoned the use of calling Iraqis terrorist, replacing it with the term Serpents, “Radicals, and anti-establishments against a free Iraq.

Now Bush says Iraqis must assume responsibility for their own future, to avoid terror spreading to other parts of the world, and the United Nations must provide troops as well. Before the invasion on Iraq, the UN was classified as unaccountable and irresponsible.

On CNN news a U.S. Captain in Iraq said his command will and must use violence to have control, “Control violence is what we are doing.” Surely if Hass could have been bought out by the billions of dollars spend on the attack by Bush. Or British Prime Minister Tony Blair could have sent 007 to assassinate him.

And the US continued to promote the risk of America being attack by terrorist. It is frighten what is going on. The tragedy is that the people ask for little more than conditions that will enable them to achieve their dignity to live their lives in peace.

Jeff Cohen, who directs the media watchdog organization Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), pointed that “It’s a lie is big enough, and repeated enough, it will eventually pass for truth”. “All tongue will speak in the same tongue.” Acts Chapter 2.

in with peace on earth as it is in heaven.

Native Americans referring to the forefathers, saying ‘folk tongue’ is more like it.
Last month during a backyard family gathering cousin Carneil Carter asked the question regarding the movie Fahrenheit 911. "Why did President Bush rush to attack? He answered, "Because he was protecting the legacy and business relationship of his father, the former president George Bush, in the wake of Sr.'s ties to the Bin Laden family business, the Carlyle Group and its influence in the U.S. citizens opinion on his father's legacy."

It wasn't just a matter of pursuing the American dream that Mid East families got off the plane at O'Hare airport, and founded their family dreams in the Black community. They have far reaching ties and influences to owning just about 95% of every corner store and gas station in the Black community.

Their America and family dreams in the community just so happen to materialize faster than any migration of Blacks of the 1930 and 60's, the Carter family or any Black family have had in this country.

Whatever, the hesitating answers that Blacks have not achieved as the Bush family and others, family is one of the most united institutions, even over the church regardless of race. It is just the matter of how the families transform their strength and their legacy.

Family reunions are taking place every year. At the Carter Family Reunion as many families, most members will just be pleased to see lost members and to know who is family. Beyond just the family gathering, if there was a time and need for our family to come together, the "Living Legends/Passing the Torch" awards is a major example produced by the Black United Fund of Illinois (an organization our cousin Natalie Puryear help organize) is just as equally important to the worldwide known had Billikin Parade. It is an illustration of actively mentoring and preparing the next generation to take their places. The honorees included Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

The Carter family photo of 1936, on 36th and State Street: The overwhelming Black families that migrated from the south in the 1930's and then the 60's, has not nourished or materialize the America and family dreams with a legacy as witness by other migration of people to the United States and in Chicago. However, with the Black United Fund of Illinois with its passing the "Torch Award" and family reunions, Black America can witness benefits that others have.

The Carter family reunion is just one example of how families are coming together to recognize the importance of family reunions. The Carter family is one of the most united institutions, even over the church regardless of race. It is just the matter of how the families transform their strength and their legacy.

The Carter like many families does not have publicly known members receiving a "Torch Award." But we do have businesses and had business, just as the Moseberry's corner store at 5959 S. State Street, now operated by Alderman Arenda Troutman.

Family reunions must begin a concept of the Torch Awards, to recognize the importance and influence of reunions. Something that people form other countries implement, expanding Planned Family-hood to "Planned Family Legacy," making not of accomplishments, and making it into a celebration, uplifting the heart and soul for many. Families are the first and last institution, quietly are doing a good job for our communities. The Fund with their historical contribution to funding and assisting programs in the African American community could extend the Living Legends/Passing the Torch to the quiet storm of institutional family reunions in its concept.

It could perhaps produce more individuals to build successful businesses and careers, putting in place a larger strategy to encourage generational continuity in business and the professions that same as those other people that own the businesses in the Black community.

This August the Carter Family had their Family reunion as well as many other families. However, at the next "Soul food" dinner, after the loud mouth relative settle down, the families can expect the usual having fun, but the BUIF event has put another agenda item on the table for discussion that can lead a different soul inspiration for the future with insight and support in an endeavor that can guide a lasting direction in addressing the quiet leadership of family.

Let the many families focus on our legacy, before the traditional reunions. Moreover, whatever the Bush family or any other family does, the family will carry on but the branches of future generations are counting on us to have legacy they can proudly carry on.
Did their "Gas Fast" reduce gas prices?

New coalition kicks off Addressing local & national issues; Gambling & Meigs Fields with focus on 2007 election,

"There is going to be someone, pumping gas, and going to make the statement; 'Someone needs to do something about these gas prices.'" Proclaimed Hal Baskin, of the 16th Ward Political Task Force and a member of the newly formed Committee For A Better Chicago (CFABC). Convened by Bill "Doc" Walls (I), their efforts triggered international attention as CFABC coordinated a citywide "Gas Fast" that started May 5th when gas was $2.29 at many gas stations.

CFABC "Gas Fast" recommended that drivers refrain from purchasing gasoline on Wednesdays and, instead, gas up on any of the six remaining days.

Walls indicated that their effort will not stop the production of gas, but it will make a statement.

In wake of the war in Iraq, America has on the surface intervened potential cataclysmic cutoff of oil from the Middle East and the sabotaging of the oil pipelines throughout the region and U.S. However, for each of the five weeks, the cost of gasoline has reached to a new record explained Walls.

From all indications, the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the major oil companies intend for gasoline prices to continue to skyrocket out of control.

"Rather than sit idly by and silently endure fast rising gasoline prices, if we fight back, we can encourage them to increase production and lower prices." Said Baskin.

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Minister Group hold meeting with Assessor's office on Church taxes

Rev. Wardell Newsome, president of Voice of Community Ministerial Association (VOCMA) is calling a special informational meeting of VOCMA, August 19th at 6 pm, where a staff member from the Assessor’s office will be present to give vital information regarding churches and property taxes. Rev. Newsome said that VOCMA organized a year ago is concerned with Church “Land Grab” that could be taking place with a lack of knowledge on the tax laws as it applies to churches. And that, “God is calling us to economic evangelism and the destruction of all idols.

Pastors, Minister and members of their congregations are invited to find out and receive information and pass on. The meeting will be held at Faith Community M.B. Church, at 3456 W. Flournoy.

Englewood
Pastors of Englewood Unify on Matah

Ms. Beauty Turner
Freelance Writer

The Pastors Of Englewood (POE) has embraced the Matah church initiative as a vehicle to create jobs in the church as well as in the community.

MATAH products are produced and manufactured by Black people of African descent. Min. Darrell Wilson, board member of POE says, “When I met Bro. Gaston Armour of MATAH he introduced me to the concepts of how Matah can help church raise funds and create jobs, I immediately shared this information with Pastor St. John Chisum, Chairperson of POE.”

“This Church initiative allows churches to become a Network Business Center, thereby creating a revenue for the church based on members purchasing everyday goods and services from the church.” Said Pastor Chisum.

POE is an inter-denominational organization of clergy whose primary mission is to promote unity among the local churches while encouraging outreach beyond the four walls of the church.

“MATAH can help us do just that, it’s like the underground railroad to our economic freedom. We’ve been waiting on this train for a long time” Says Min. Wilson.

The POE Unity Coalition consists of 30 Ministers with the main focus on unifying the Church, the State and the Community. The Clergy committee purpose is to oversee and ensure the Englwood Unity Coalition maintain a spiritual thirst and hunger to for fill the community needs. Hopefully this is the start of something big that will be bene-

Min. Darrell Wilson, board member of POE

15 ward protest seeks ouster of alderman.

As leader announces her candidacy for office.

Every year, since 1998, the Mayor has provided City Council members $1.2 million annually for the “Aldermanic Menu” program to make basic neighborhood infrastructure improvements in their ward. The aldermen decide where the work will be done in their wards.

However, a vocal new organization, the Englewood 15th Ward, The Accountability Committee (STAC), held rallies calling for accountability of the funds. Alderman Ted Thomas 15th Ward Alderman Ted Thomas for excluding residents in the decision made in the community. “Ineffective in leadership incomplete staff and non-disclosure of funds. And information received but not follow-up on”, Said Lorraine Harrell president of the 15TAC.

Thomas addressed the concerns of the residents wanting a counter protest. And noted progress in the ward with the groundbreaking for West Englewood’s first new library in more than 20 years, a new Police Station to be build and addressing banks to offer conventional lending an alternative to predatory loans.

Charging the protest was a ploy to challenge him. Recently, Harrell announced her candidacy at a fundraiser for the 15th Ward.

“The ward is starting to be cleaned up after the demonstration”, Said Harrell.

“Too often, they (Aldermen) only respond upon pressure, and there is a challenger to their job. That should not be the reason to get the alderman to work for the community,” Said Harrell.

“But if that’s the way to get him on his job, we will continue the protest and I will continue to be a candidate for alderman of the 15th Ward.”

Chicago ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) had mix reaction on the protesting of Thomas. He was the organization’s former board president. However, in 2002 ACORN member ran against him and in April 1999, the mayor and his allies had mobilized Thomas for defeat.

A representative of ACORN said to often officials do not seek out community input to prioritize neighborhood’s needs. Which reflects a report released by the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group report on the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group report on the

The report released last April is a 3-year review of the choices made by Chicago Aldermen when selecting public works projects for their wards.

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Community Capital

Improvement

"Who's working and who's benefiting"

Community hearing held earlier this year for Chicago's 2004-08 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), was a crucial opportunity to address improvement in neighborhoods under the City Office of Business Management (OBM). CIP is an addition investment to the Aldermanic Menu. The funds are for major infrastructure repairs or improvements. It has a broader coverage of works such as: sewer and water line repair or replacement; bridge and sidewalk repairs; commercial streetscaping projects and industrial street improvements; repair or construction of public facilities such as libraries and health clinics.

The Exodus Renewal Society, Inc. asks, "Who's working in the wards and who's benefiting from these investments for our community". Chris Moore of ERS points out his organization has begun taking steps to not only what are the needs of the community residents but to the broader economies of community residents working on the projects.

"We are not just concerned with the $1.2 million, the aldermen are in controlled. The TIF from 98th & Halsted to 127th & Halsted is targeted for millions of the residents' taxes. We should at least benefit from our own taxes."

Moore said the 9th and 34th ward is where Exodus started doing "neighborhood drive-by survey", going door to door to take assessments from the people, then holding community organizing meetings at Forestwood United Methodist Church, 10057 S. Wallace.

"This means first we must all come together, block by block, to practice cooperative economics and community development. And that includes government and public officials must practice cooperative economics themselves. Stop letting other benefit from our taxes.

Black Caucus Chair Ald. Ed Smith, on the Westside 27th ward, said he is not speaking for what other aldermen do in their wards, but explains the work that comes from the CIP is contracted and awarded by the City government. "We (aldermen) do not have any say in who gets the work, we (27 ward) informs the city what work we have identified as a priority.

Ald. Smith agreeing that there should be more representation of the community doing public work added that the community should express their concerns to the city on fair representation in the work allocated in the wards. But the community should be aware of the qualification standards for doing business with the city and the qualified lowest bids get the jobs.

Copies of the proposed public works plan are available for public inspection at all of the City's public libraries.
Wal-Mart Plan Generates Opposition

The fights to set standards for Wal-Mart's进来 has been a long time coming for the Chicago marketplace is still an issue as the proposal for a Wal-Mart store in the West Side was not approved and the 13th and Stewart TIF District was rejected again in community meetings before it could go before the City Council. However, Ald. Howard Brookins (21) is still pushing for the 13th Street location. South Siders have formed a local Task Force to monitor and hold future development in their TIF District accountable by drawing on a model that Neighbor Capital Budget Group implemented in Chicago in December. Wal-Mart for 83rd Street missed committee vote by one last June and will go before committee again on September 1, 2004. But Labor and community groups opposing retailer giant Wal-Mart's plan to open its first store in the West Side. Chicago Jobs With Justice, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Illinois Food Retailers Association were among the organizations testifying against Wal-Mart's proposal, according to Elizabeth Doyen of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881. In responding to Wal-Mart's application, the Chicago Planning Commission noted concerns about its potential impact on small businesses and wage levels, and voted to forward a transcript of the hearing to the Chicago Workforce Development Board. Wal-Mart has prepared a 150,000 square foot store at the site of the former Hinkle Curtis plant at 87 N. Kilpatrick in the West Side community of Austin. When Wal-Mart enters a metropolitan area, it targets low-income communities that are hungry for work," said Drea. "Then they go in and wipe out local businesses," driving down wage and benefit levels. Local 881 is concerned about the potential impact on its members working in area grocery stores, she said. Nationally, opposition to new Wal-Marts has grown as the company has moved to move into major metropolitan areas. Critics score the corporation for unfair labor practices, in particular predatory business practices; low-wage, poor-benefit employment practices, and hostile labor union rights. Wal-Mart faces scores of unfair labor practice charges nationwide, as well as an in-house audit, which found extensive violations of child labor and overtime laws. The South Austin Coalition is seeking a community benefit agreement with Wal-Mart, according to Elise Redmond. They want the corporation to agree to hire locally, provide living wages, offer benefits with comprehensive, affordable health coverage, and respect employees' rights to organize. More Info. Elizabeth Drey at UFCW Local 881, 630-954-1600, ext. 407 and Elise Redmond at South Austin Coalition, 727-287-0870.

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Kim Morrelle, Public Information Manager for IDOT noted that IDOT awarded $2 million to the Chicago Urban League and United Services of Chicago on site jobs, contracts, training opportunities, and professional and financial services.

Vowing to keep the Task Force operative, "We are going to do our own monitoring," said Lloyd. The Committee filed a Civil Rights complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice based on IDOT discriminate on race and adverse effects on minorities in communities, a representative of the Committee said.

For more information contact: Rochelle Williams Secretary-Committee to Save the Dan Ryan, 773-627-4474. Contractors wanting information on the DBE certification process should contact the DBE Resource Center at 312-599-1100 or IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity at 217-537-4591.
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