

IVI-IPO 2011 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/4/2010

WARD 46

NAME Marc Kaplan

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER _____

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 776 NUMBER REQUIRED 226

Please provide the following background information:

A. Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

I am on the Local School Council for Uplift Community High School. I have been elected to Local School Councils since 1995.

B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None

C. What is your primary occupation?

Bar Captain/Bartender for a catering company

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

Local School Councils, On the transition team that selected Uplift as the school for the Arai Middle School Site, volunteer tutor, organizer of recreation programs for young people in Uptown, Coach of softball, football and triathlon training programs for young people in the 46th ward, Board member of the School based Health Center at Uplift, community activist and leader with COURAJ and now Northside Action for Justice. I was one of the leaders of the successful 10year campaign to have affordable housing built on the Wilson Yards site.

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? I have a wealth of experience in community organizing, leadership development, running community programs and not for profit organizations and bringing people together to solve problems.

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. I have supported and worked in many campaigns since I moved to Chicago in 1973. I was a precinct worker in 1973 for the campaign of Charles White (an independent candidate in the 27th ward); a precinct coordinator in Jose "Cha Cha" Jiminez aldermanic campaign in 46th ward in 1975, precinct coordinator for Helen Shiller's 46th ward aldermanic campaign in 1979; precinct coordinator for Ellis Levin State Representative campaign in 1982, precinct coordinator for Harold Washington in the 48th Ward and then in 46 and Paul Siegel and then Charlotte Newfeld's aldermanic campaign in 1983; precinct worker for Clem

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Balanoff for State Representative, precinct coordinator for Harold Washington and Helen Shiller in 1987, precinct coordinator for Helen Shiller's reelections in 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007, precinct coordinator for the late representative Larry McKeon in 2002, 2004 and 2006, precinct worker for Rudy Lozano Jr, for State Representative in 2010.

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far. No formal endorsements. Just the 776 people who signed my petitions (that was accomplished totally by volunteers in one week)

H. As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally? I feel I should be endorsed over the other candidates because I have a track record of many years of positive involvement in the ward and around the city and a track record of community and civic accomplishments that show that I can get positive things done. The goals that are most important to me personally are to maintain diversity in the ward by increasing affordability of housing and building sustainable positive communities through increased participation of the people and innovative programs. On a citywide basis I would in addition be looking to make it possible for all people to be able to afford to live in the city by supporting innovative job creation to make Chicago the leader in the new green economy and a living wage ordinance.

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?
50,000 dollars. 1,500 dollars

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

I have no campaign staff so far, I have 50 volunteers on my list and it is growing daily.

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Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
		X	Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
1.	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? I am not in a position to state at this time which committees I would eliminate or combine. I am in favor of looking at the whole Council Committee structure and seeing what is necessary and what is not. In general my approach to developing a more fiscally sound government and city would be to eliminate from the top down avoiding as much as possible the elimination of the front lines workers that are necessary to the basic functioning of the city. I do not believe that the Council Committee structure should be used to have more political allies or operatives on your staff. And that the amount and number of staff on committees should be determined by the functional needs of the Council to conduct business in the interest of the people of the city.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? I am not really familiar with the rules of the City Council Committee. I do know that one reform that is necessary is to take away the ability for the committees to bury or delay necessary ordinances in committee like what was done with the Sweet Home Chicago Ordinance for three months. I think, based on my experience with legislative issues that the committee hearings need to be more accessible to the public in general and allow the public the right to fully testify, instead of the pro-forma two – three minute time limit people are generally given.
3.	X		Will you vote to allow a single Inspector General of the City of Chicago, rather than a new City Council Inspector General, to investigate allegations of fraud or waste by aldermen and their staff?
4.		X	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
5.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
6.		x	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?
7.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
8.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance forbidding the City to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government?
9.	X		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
10.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring redistricting of the wards to be based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
11.		x	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees? I will not, however if someone from the community gives me a small donation now and then ends up applying and getting a position on my staff I would return the donation
12.		x	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
13.	X		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?

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	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I definitely support the public financing of municipal campaigns. I believe that it would establish a more level playing field and would not have candidates be beholden to special interests that donate and finance their campaigns. In the municipal campaigns you have special interests from real estate developers, to property tax attorneys to corporate entities that all help finance campaigns in a large way. This process then in turn compromises the ability of elected officials to act on an objective basis in the interests of the people of the city. I would be for a system that does not allow a candidate to opt out of public financing if they have the ability to raise more money from private sources.
14.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? My campaign is just in the beginning stages of fundraising, but the two contributors are Robert Cotter, an attorney and Paul Becker a retiree.
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
15.	X		Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
			Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:
16.	X		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
17.	X		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
18.	X		restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?
19.	ESSAY		What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? I think we should consider some more progressive taxes. One thing to look at would be a sales tax on large-scale financial transactions, a city income tax and a tax on profits made from the sale of investment properties.
20.		x	Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
21.	X		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
22.	X		Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
23.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
		X	Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
24.	ESSAY		Please explain your position. Yes I think the city is top heavy with management and with fees made out to consultants. I think we need to study this, but I think that there probably are too many deputies and assistants in many department and the structure could be streamlined to save costs and increase efficiency.
25.	ESSAY		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? I definitely would support enacting measures tat would allow the city to capture revenue to fund the pension plan so that it is solvent. I am not in favor of reducing the pensions of current employees. I believe we need to study all options available to make sure that city workers are treated fairly in terms of their retirement benefits and that the city is able to survive financially.
26.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
			in equal amounts to each ward
			based on the size of each ward
X			based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
27.	X		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
28.	X		Will you vote to reorganize the Department of Streets and Sanitation by compact districts rather than wards?

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PRIVATIZATION		
29.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? I am generally against the privatization of services that are to meet the public needs. I think once you put services or facilities into private corporate hands then the primary factor in driving these services is private profit. I think that then decisions are made that harm the public. I would certainly be proactive in cutting waste in the public sector to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of services.
30.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
31.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
32.	ESSAY	Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term? As I said I am generally opposed to the privatization of public services. However; if this came to be I would examine very closely any privatization contracts and have detailed requirements regarding the delivery of these services and specific performance goals and cost parameters.
33.	ESSAY	What procedures will you vote for to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Shakman decree? I would have written into each contract a clause similar to Shakman and have as a stipulation that the violation would result in the termination of the contract.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
34.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning?
35.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?
36.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance?
37.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?
38.	X	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?
39.	X	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
40.	ESSAY	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?
41.	X	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF? I would support an ordinance that states that no tax dollars should be taken from the schools and that all tax dollars that have been taken from the schools be returned. I believe that TIFs should only be used or enacted to develop affordable housing and economic generation in blighted areas or to prevent blight. I think there should be very strict guidelines on this, but I believe that putting a moratorium on TIF's now after they have already been misused to build Millennium Park and develop high priced condominiums in the south loop would be preventing some communities and some projects from getting one of the only sources of revenues that they have available to develop affordability and positive economic generation.
42.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
43.	X	Will you vote to invest substantially more in job-training and the creation of transitional job programs in disadvantaged communities, including the formerly incarcerated, homeless, youth,

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			and non-English speakers?
HOUSING			
44.	X		Will you vote for the Sweet Homes Chicago Ordinance?
45.	X		Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
46.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to guarantee that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of AMI? I would support an ordinance that would require the holders of foreclosed properties make available 40% of them to families who are at 40% to 60% of the AMI or not be allowed to participate in the program. I would also be in favor of measures that prohibit banks from foreclosing on families who can not pay their mortgages for economic reasons and mandate that banks renegotiate the mortgages on terms that families can afford, until they are out of economic distress.
47.	X		Will you vote for an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?
48.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? 1. I support and would strengthen the right of first refusal for tenants that are in buildings that are currently affordable because of project based section 8's but could be converted into private market rate housing. Secondly I would make sure that in any building or development that either got city subsidies directly (such as free land or TIF funding) or indirectly (through infrastructure building or zoning changes) be required to have at least 25% of the units affordable to families at or below 40% of the AMI including families who have section 8 certificates. I believe that we need to enact very strong penalties if it is shown that owners are discriminating against families that have certificates.
49.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? I do support the Sweet Home Chicago Ordinance and would like to see stronger measures passed that would require a higher percentage of TIF funds be used for the purpose of preserving existing housing that is affordable to low income individuals and families and building new housing that is affordable. I also think that we could encourage developers to build this type of housing if the city would use its power of eminent domain to acquire vacant lots and then give the land to developers for \$1, for the building of housing that is affordable to low income individuals and families. I think that banks and developers and mortgage holders should be required to rent a percentage of vacant condominiums that are sitting all across the city to low income individuals and families. Finally I think there needs to be a City sponsored Housing Summit that pulls together Grassroots organizations, unions, developers, banks the religious community, foundations, green technology groups and corporations to develop a comprehensive plan to develop housing in the city for low income individuals and families.
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
50.	X		low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
51.	X		supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
52.	X		shelters for the homeless?
53.	Choose One		Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
			AMI of the Metropolitan region
			AMI of Cook County
			AMI of Chicago

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x		AMI of the Community Area Unless the AMI for Chicago is lower then the AMI for the community area like in a community like Lincoln Park
EDUCATION		
54.	Choose One	Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
x		Popular Election I believe the popular election should be done by community areas and that every resident of that area over 16 should be eligible to vote.
		Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
		Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
	YES	NO
55.	X	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
56.	X	Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs?
57.	X	Will you support a moratorium on school closings until a detailed analysis of the impacts of shuffling children is completed, and a real plan to address the quality of education and safety for every child is in place?
58.	X	Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the ISAT and ACT tests?
59.	ESSAY	<p>What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools. I think that generally Renaissance 2010 overall has not been a good program or a positive use of public resources. I think while there are some success stories and successful schools that have been created (and the positive results for the children, families that attend these schools should not be minimized) that on the whole the program is flawed in its transfer of funds to private for profit or not for profit entities and its introduction of military schools into the equation. I think a lot of the program is smoke and mirrors and the verdict is still out on a lot of the new schools that have been created. I think that schools that have been shut down or reconstituted as a result of "low enrollment" that is the result of the gentrification of certain areas or the plan for transformation of public housing have had very negative effects on the children and families in those schools and many of the children were transferred to schools that have an equally bad record of academic achievement in areas that are more dangerous for them. I think the funding of charter schools and the building of new selective enrollment schools have drawn vitally needed money from a public school system where in many areas of the city schools are overcrowded and classrooms have a very high student-teacher ratio. I think within the public system there needs to be more room for the development of innovative schools and programs. In my ward Renaissance 2010 led to the development of Uplift Community High School (a public – performance school), which is a Social Justice –College Preparatory High School with grades 7-12. The school itself has been successful, in that every senior in its first two graduating classes have been accepted to college. This in a school where 92% of the students are eligible for the free lunch program (which means that they come from low income families) is an outstanding achievement.</p>
60.	ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? I think the first thing that needs to be done is that the funding to the schools that have been going into TIF Districts should be returned to the schools and no further tax dollars should be taken from the schools. I think that there ahs to be more parent and community participation in the schools and more cooperation between all the schools in a community in terms of working together and developing best practices in each of the schools. I think there needs to be more innovative courses of study</p>

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			and strong partnerships developed between local elementary schools ,high schools community colleges and universities so that students can benefit from the resources they can bring to bear.
61.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? I would bring all the educators together in the different schools ,along with Truman College, and local not for profit organizations that deal with youth services and work to develop a community plan for educational success that started with the daycare programs and ended with post secondary education.
ENVIRONMENT			
62.	X		Will you vote to implement the blue cart recycling program throughout the City?
63.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
64.		X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
65.	x		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
66.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
67.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
68.	ESSAY		What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? The city should take the lead on developing economic projects to be the national leader in producing alternative forms of energy. Whether it is helping businesses that develop solar panels and then providing economic incentives for developers to use them, or getting involved in the generation of wind power Both in the construction end of wind turbines and then developing a plan to use wind (possibly off shore wind farms) to generate power are all things that need to be explored ASAP if we are to survive. I believe that Chicago is in a position to take a lead in this nationally and that it would also have economic benefits.
69.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? I am a strong believer in urban gardening – in vacant lots; on rooftops and indoors. Everything from produce to fish can be grown in the urban environment and this would provide healthy food to people and could provide employment and positive activities for community residents. I think there also needs to be a retooling of buildings to make them energy efficient and environmentally sound. This could also provide employment and job training to people in communities around the city.
PARKS			
70.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
71.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
71.	ESSAY		Why or why not? I would not support the increased privatization of Park District services because I believe that then decisions are made primarily on a profit motive basis and that may restrict or limit the use of the parks to the people who need them the most.
72.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
73.	X		Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?
74.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
	1		Red Line south to 130th Street
	2		Orange Line to Ford City Mall
			Downtown Circulator
	possibly		Downtown-O'Hare Express Possibly

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	YES	NO	Other – please specify
75.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
76.		X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
77.		X	Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
78.		X	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? I think unfortunately 911 services are abused by some people in the ward to call to target certain groups of people like young people or homeless people that they are not comfortable with and therefore sometimes police are not available when they are needed.
79.			Are there inequities in 911 services in your ward? I would have to study this. I do know there is a feeling among low and moderate income residents in the ward that generally the police are more responsive to the higher income residents
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them?
80.	X		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
81.	ESSAY		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? The CAPS program needs to be changed and revamped. What started out as Community Alternative Policing Strategies has turned into a police driven and in the Uptown community of the 46 th ward –gentrifiers driven program. I would support the election of the CAPS beat facilitators, the CAPS program being the place to initiate real alternative strategies from community-police partnerships in problem solving to police participation in all areas of life in the community CAPS should be a place where problems that stand in the way of police- community partnerships like profiling and harassment and disrespect by the police can be discussed. Unless there is a change in both the structure and implementation of CAPS it will never be an effective tool in solving community problems.
82.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
83.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? I will support funding and support for many of the measures that I have been involved with for most of my life. From developing better schools, to community recreation, education programs mentorship and employment training and most specifically a Community Peace Corps that would hire and train young people to do the jobs that need to be done in the community from daycare to senior care; from tutoring to coaching ,to weatherizing buildings to cleaning the community. I also think that here needs to be more funding and effective mental health and counseling programs fro young people who are living in traumatic situations.
84.	X		Do you support gun control?
85.	ESSAY		What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban? I think the City Council should look at the parameters of the Supreme Court Decision and figure out how to most effectively pass legislation that would deal with the plague of handgun violence that we are facing.
86.	X		Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
87.	ESSAY		Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.I do not think there is a significant difference in IPRA and the former OPS. I think that only with a review body that is totally independent of the Police Department will you ever have the honest assess mat and accountability that is necessary to objectively investigate allegations of police wrongdoing and be able to develop the mutual trust and support between the residents of the city and the police

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		department.
CIVIL RIGHTS		
88.	X	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
89.	X	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
90.	ESSAY	Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts. I don't know enough about it, but I am committed to full and fair participation of individuals with disabilities in all city departments, outsourced companies and contracts.
91.	ESSAY	Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion. I believe the current woman and minority participation in hiring and contracts has a low standard and even that is not being met or in some cases abused. I believe that affirmative steps need to be taken in all areas of city hiring so that the make up of the city work force and the letting of contracts more closely represents the population of the city.
92.	X	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
93.	X	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
94.		Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance? I am not familiar with this
	ESSAY	Why or why not?
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
95.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? None
96.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? I will devote all my time to my aldermanic duties.
97.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties I currently work at least 50-60 hours a week and I would be spending at least that amount of time on my aldermanic duties.
98.	ESSAY	Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open. I will have at least two fulltime staff. I will pay for them through money allocated by the city, and partially through sharing my salary. The office will be open 40 hours a week, including some evening and weekend hours.
99.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? I think that there needs to be improved or more services targeted towards young people. I would convene a summit made up of young people, youth service providers, not for profits, violence prevention programs, the Park District, the schools, religious institutions, grassroots organizations, and community businesses, mental health providers to develop a comprehensive plan, for the positive development of young people in our community.
I 100.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? My top priorities can be summarizes as continued diversity, through increased affordability, sustainability, building community and continued progress in the 46 th ward.
101.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? I believe the key to progress and positive development is the full participation of residents and community groups. I would have committees of residents that would meet t o make decisions regarding issues like zoning and the use of TIF dollars. I would initiate committees that would be made up of community groups and residents that would deal with housing, youth issues, community safety,

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		senior issues, and green issues. I would work with community residents to develop community assemblies that would meet four times a year in all areas of the ward and be a place where residents could propose initiatives to make their communities more livable.
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