

IVI-IPO 2007 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE December 19, 2006

NAME Rey Colón, Alderman 35th Ward

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER Martha Ramos

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 3,000 NUMBER REQUIRED 186

Please provide the following background information:

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

35th Ward Committeeman, Elected March 16, 2004

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

Candidate for 35th Ward Alderman in 1999

Candidate for 35th Ward Alderman in 2003

Principal business, educational, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

I have lived the community since 1967. My career has been devoted to creating opportunities for children, families and community residents in need. I live with my fiancée, Martha Ramos and our twenty year-old daughters, Coraliris and Kristiana. Throughout the years, my work has received local and national recognition in program excellence, in areas of child development, education, and volunteer outreach. My former positions include Executive Director of YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Executive Director Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, and Area Manager of the Chicago Park District. I have also held numerous volunteer roles with organizations past and present like the Network for Youth Services Board President, founding member of the Alliance of Logan Square Organizations, Logan Square Neighborhood Association Board President, and I am currently on the Infant Welfare Society's Advisory Committee. My time now however is best spent supporting these organizations by creating linkages with resources; Introducing potential donors, working on mutual goals, providing information, funding, facilities, referrals and all the things I would have liked from an alderman when I was delivering non-profit services. Working to accomplish the mission of these fine institutions and organizations has uniquely prepared to me to serve as Alderman.

My political debut came in the 1999 race for 35th Ward Alderman. I was approached by community residents and encouraged to challenge the local administration. While I lost the election, I won valuable experience and knowledge of the ward's needs and interests.

After the election, the YMCA recruited me to facilitate a \$7.5 million fundraising effort to direct the construction a new YMCA. By December 2001, the new McCormick Tribune YMCA in Logan Square located at 1834 N. Cortland opened its doors to the Logan Square and Humboldt Park communities

In 2002, I returned to a newly remapped 35th Ward to complete the unfinished political business which began in 1999. Many of the precincts I had won in the previous election were gone and I had new areas which should have favored my opposition. Considered Chicago's most hotly contested race at that time, my campaign became a grassroots political movement against an 8-year incumbent who had the support of Chicago's Aldermen, the Mayor, the Governor and many other elected officials. According to the Chicago Tribune, "the end-result was a historic electoral upset that shattered the status quo." On February 25, 2003 I won the election with 60% of the vote.

Today, my mission to unite neighborhoods and include constituents in the community-building process continues. My vision for transparency in local government has become an expectation in the culture of the 35th Ward. Once re-elected, I am committed to taking it to a new level.

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 been an active member of NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected Officials) and have participated in numerous educational workshops and conferences. I established good relationships with elected and appointed officials nation-wide. I have been called upon to facilitate sustainable communities' presentations regarding my work in the 35th Ward. I also hosted a delegation of 40 elected officials who experienced a Chicago neighborhood tour that culminated in the 35th Ward's Palmer Square Boulevard Arts Festival.

The transparency provided in the 35th Ward between the community and its Alderman is cutting-edge and not found in other Chicago wards or throughout the country. The influence I have exercised as Alderman has been to ensure that the voice of our ward's people are heard; especially with issues concerning affordable housing, new developments, historical preservation, transportation, quality of life, city services and open space. Total Quality Government is my goal. I have discovered that when a leader represents the people, especially those that cannot represent themselves, the full support of the community is not guaranteed. During these moments, wisdom and instinct must prevail. At the end of the day "Doing the right thing" is ultimately, what I was elected to do.

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Endorsed candidates, circulated petitions, distributed palm cards, and went door-to-door for candidates who I have supported. Not all have been supported by the Regular Democratic Party, but I support individuals who I believe are best qualified for the positions they seek. Examples include: Barack Obama, Forest Claypool, and Ramon Ocasio just to name a few.

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

City Clerk Miguel del Valle

Mayor Richard M. Daley

Congressman Luis Gutierrez

Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger

Alderman William J.P. Banks

Alderman Walter Burnett

Alderman Edward Burke

Alderman George Cardenas

Alderman Manuel Flores

Alderman Ricardo Munoz

Alderman Billy Ocasio

Alderman Ariel Reboyras

Alderman Ed Smith

Alderman Daniel S. Solis

Alderman Ray Suarez

Cook County Commissioner Joseph Berrios

Cook County Commissioner Forrest Claypool

Cook County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado

State Senator Iris Martinez

State Representative Maria Antonia Berrios

State Representative Richard Bradley

State Representative William Delgado

State Representative Cynthia Soto

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?

Streets and Sanitation

Since taking office in 2003, I hired Ward Superintendent Raul Roldan to supervise the 35th Ward's Streets and Sanitation operation. The result has been improved garbage pick-up and pest control services, and graffiti removal. We also publicized regular street sweeping and cleaning schedules. During my next term we will focus on educating residents about separating garbage and organizing alley clean-ups to decrease the rodent population.

Crime and Safety

Crime in the 35th Ward has decreased by over 25% since I've been in office, according to Chicago Police Department statistics. I work closely with my 3 District Commanders encourage residents to work participate in CAPS to reduce crime. I also advocated for a special bicycle squad patrolling the 14th District. During my next term, I will utilize aldermanic menu dollars to add lighting and create safe passage rapid transit areas. We will also increase the number of Block Parties and Block Clubs. I will work with organizers and attend the first meeting to help get it started. My office will also facilitate corrective action meetings involving problem property owners, police and local residents to resolve local issues. This has also proven effective during my first-term.

Policy by the People

I have utilized ballot referenda to learn the opinions of the community on policy and City ordinances like the Clean Indoor Air Act, the Big Box Living Wage Ordinance, Gambling, Landmarking and the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. I have stood by my constituents when these matters came before the full city council for a vote. As an independent alderman, I will continue to involve the people on important city-wide issues and represent their interests.

Zoning and Land Use

I vowed to include the community in decisions involving zoning and land use. Upon election, I created the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC), made up of community representatives to review and consider all zoning change requests received in the ward. I will continue to hold open public meetings on each requested zoning change and will continue to leverage public benefits like affordable housing, quality construction, green buildings, and additional funding for the low-income trust fund. The ZAC will also begin to review ward zoning and make recommendations for planning purposes rather than reactive zoning.

Improving Open Space and Parks

In response to ranking second in all of Chicago for the least amount of open recreational green space, I worked with hundreds of concerned residents in creating an Open Space Plan with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and the Chicago Park District. Since then, I have organized numerous public meetings between residents and the City to finalize these plans and secure the needed funding. During my next term, I will continue to create or improve these open spaces by securing funding for our proposed skate park at Logan and Western, a Market Plaza on the Square, the Bloomingdale Trail linear park, and the many other exciting open space additions to the 35th Ward. In addition, I have committed \$50,000 from the 2007 Aldermanic Menu to improve facilities at Athletic Field Park.

Supporting the Arts

I have a vision and have played a key role in bringing arts organizations to the Ward which include the Elastic Arts Foundation, American Theater Company, Chicago Ballet, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, and The Arts Center 2421. My goal is to create a Milwaukee Avenue Arts District and bring a vibrant new arts scene into the area. In addition, I created and will continue to host the Boulevard Arts Festival, an annual event to celebrate the diversity of the 35th Ward through art, food, music, and family activities.

Improving Communication

I am accessible to all residents of the 35th Ward. In my next term, I will improve communication with constituents in the following areas:

- **The website, www.reycolon.org**
Virtual ward office, the website serves as an online tool for residents to stay connected. The website features an online submission form for City of Chicago service requests, street sweeping schedules, forms, neighborhood projects, zoning request updates, links to employment opportunities, community organizations, photo gallery, and much, much more.
- **35th Ward Community Service Office**
Our friendly and helpful staff help you gain access to city services or assist you with your concerns. Literature, covering numerous aspects of city services and events, are available to residents at no cost.

- **Ward Night**
Ward Night is held every Tuesday evening every week and no appointment is necessary.
- **Community Meetings**
At these gatherings, the community is invited to voice their opinion on major issues affecting the ward.
- **Quarterly Newsletter**
Sent to every resident in the 35th Ward, the newsletter gives readers a seasonal snapshot of the ward's latest activities and highlights local businesses.
- **“Ward Night,” Community Affairs Television Program**
Tune into the Alderman's community affairs television show, Ward Night. The program features in-depth discussions on urban issues affecting the ward and the city as a whole. The show airs on the Cable Access Network (CAN-TV).
- **Ward 35 Email**
Send your thoughts and views to ward35@cityofchicago.org.

Historic Preservation and Landmarking

Early in my first-term, I designated two Historic Landmark Districts in the 35th Ward. Landmarking has preserved significant buildings, maintained the beauty of our historical atmosphere and put the boulevard system in Humboldt Park and Logan Square on the map. In areas that did not qualify for landmark status, I have encouraged developers to reuse existing buildings to protect treasured architecture, such as with the Orbit Building on Milwaukee Avenue and the former Kimball Bank Building on Fullerton Avenue. In my next term I will create incentives to restore the now historic six-corner intersection of Milwaukee-Diversey-Kimball and the Logan Square Comfort Station.

Keeping Jobs in the Area

With the designation of the Kennedy Industrial Corridor as a Planned Manufacturing District, I have insured that this area will continue to be a manufacturing and industrial complex, keeping the workforce close to home. In my next term, I will work to attract light manufacturing jobs to this area and other areas of the ward.

Encouraging Healthy Activities

With my background, I know how important healthy activities are for everyone. In my first-term we created an annual Bike Around the Ward event to encourage bicycle riding for the whole family. I supported the creation of a Farmer's Market near Logan Square and am actively seeking to attract businesses that make healthy foods available at affordable prices. I worked with community organizers on Clean & Green efforts and continue to promote the use of environmentally friendly construction materials and energy efficient products by developers desiring to do business in the Ward. I introduced an ordinance to City Council to grant free parking for all hybrid vehicles and encourage the use of shared I-GO cars. In my next term, I plan to introduce a Sunday Parkways event to further promote healthy activities in the ward.

Supporting Social Services

While the 35th Ward is rich in social services, I am committed to in helping many organizations expand by making financial contributions, sending them potential contributors, board members and securing facilities. Through an open RFP process, the former Logan Square Library was transformed for use by Christopher House to expand their Head Start programs for children.

The former YMCA on Fullerton is now home to the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, the first green clinic in the state. In my next term, I plan to concentrate on the issue of homelessness.

Commitments made in my previous campaign have been fulfilled. I worked hard to get elected and have had to work smarter as Alderman. Our ward has received better service, witnessed increased resources, endured many major infrastructure improvements and is experiencing many new businesses. I give local leaders and stakeholders easy access to me and have developed policies to support participation in governing. The public input on many of the major decisions impacting the ward is a break-through. We have created a responsible development process that prioritizes public benefits like green buildings, quality materials, neighborhood design, affordable housing and appropriate density. Together, we have preserved the historical, cultural and industrial treasures in the ward's communities.

What is your campaign budget? **\$100,000.000** How much have you raised to date? **\$80,000**
How many people are on your campaign staff? **3** How many volunteers are on your list? **Over 200.**

PRIORITIES

1. a. What employment, other than alderman, if any, do you intend to hold?

I have been a full-time Alderman and plan to continue to be after re-election.

b. How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?

I am a full-time Alderman.

c. Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. **60+ hours. Although legally, it is considered a part-time position, the alderman has enormous responsibilities that go beyond full-time hours. I consider public service my calling in life, therefore, this my full-time job. Similar to a local mayor, the Chicago Alderman plays a crucial part in the economic revival of their communities. Aldermen who serve on the City Council are responsible for approving the city's budget, passing ordinances, and representing the interests of the ward with good service.**

Much of my time is spent responding to requests which range from contacting city departments, resolving crime issues, parking, working with community organizations on referrals, shepherding new business, sanitation, employment, housing, school matters, homeless issues, I could go on and on. If delivered correctly (even if a matter is unresolved), all ward services help to create better relations between the Aldermen's Offices and ward constituents. Every problem is an opportunity in disguise.

2. a. 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.

Each Alderman is allocated 3 full-time staff positions, an office budget and a modest contractual staff budget to set up a ward office and provide city and constituent services. Our Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm except for Tuesdays which is 10am to 8:30pm to accommodate Ward Night.

b. What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? **The Water Department has a lot of unfinished repairs throughout the ward. One of our main priorities for improvements is traffic calming. Much of the work will be funded through the aldermanic menu.**

3. What are your top priorities for the Ward?

When I first came into office, one of my top priorities was to build a strong foundation that took into account our residents' major concerns: affordable housing, participatory and transparent governing, responsible development, cultural and historic neighborhood preservation. I have instituted policies that support these concerns which will continue to serve as a guiding light on all the decisions made in my office.

Together, we also tackle the complex issues in education, public safety, economic growth and other factors affecting the quality of life in our ward. Next term, I am committed to attracting new businesses into our commercial districts.

4. How will you solicit and follow citizens' and community groups' recommendations on City matters?

I have established the groundwork needed to provide the 35th Ward with stability for further growth. We can continue to work together in developing innovative strategies to build a world class neighborhood for diverse people and businesses for years to come. The community is my eyes and ears in the neighborhood. I rely on the active participation of residents. I especially invite those who oppose my philosophies to shape a common vision for a better future. I have learned more on this job from people on the opposite side of issues than anyone else.

One example of how we respond to our community is our “Street Sweeping Schedule.” No one wants a parking ticket. When neighbors receive one during street sweeping, it is common for them to complain that they did not move their cars because they did not see the bright orange temporary “No Parking.” signs. To create a “parking ticket prevention” advantage for my constituents, I made the 35th Ward’s Street Sweeping Schedule public and posted the schedule on the 35th Ward website. This allowed for good decision-making about where to park in advance of going to work or even vacation. Today, the City of Chicago has taken our lead in transparency and now provides this information for all wards on the City of Chicago website.

PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

5. a. How should business and commercial development be balanced with residential development in the ward?

Residential areas of the ward should be kept peaceful and family oriented. Business and commercial districts should provide buffers to minimize disruption in these residential areas. Appropriate density to attract the desired retail should be kept on the larger main arterials near rapid transit which is designed to handle higher traffic flow. The density of residential streets should be kept similar to that which already exists. The streets, alleyways and sidewalks are designed to accommodate a certain population density.

b. How should downtown development be balanced with community development throughout the city? A healthy ward consists of all types of development. Each must be balanced with the other to afford residents a full range of opportunities. I support ample commercial development so residents are able to walk to near-by stores to purchase all their necessities. I also support transit-oriented development that facilitates the use of public transportation. Many residents cannot afford private automobiles and should have access to the same amenities as all others. By developing shopping and services near transit and bus stops these residents are able to take care of their shopping needs on their way home from work thereby saving them an additional trip. Such development will also alleviate the parking congestion facing the 35th Ward.

6. a. In what ways will you assist in the positive development of neighborhood business areas?

The 35th ward will continue to be a community where people live, work and play. A continued emphasis on balanced development and support of public transportation will drive my long-range vision for planning in the ward. By supporting additional residential development in commercial areas, the 35th ward can grow yet remain friendly to families and residents of all means.

By encouraging commercial business and industrial development in their appropriate areas, we will strive to increase employment and economic opportunities for all residents.

b. How will you involve ward residents in planning?

In 2003, I commissioned the 35th Ward Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC); the only Aldermanic board of its type in existence. The ZAC comprises all interested organizations in the ward including schools, churches, block clubs, neighborhood groups and businesses.

Zoning has worked in the 35th Ward's favor in helping preserve the unique character of the 35th Ward communities, which include Avondale, Humboldt Park, Irving Park and Logan Square.

This task was accomplished by involving the community in the zoning decision process, making it increasingly possible for new developments to be locally driven. This is the current ZAC membership:

ZAC Voting Organizations and Members

ZAC Chair - Mike Jaskula

2900 N. Richmond Block Club - Rita Pekara

2900 N. Troy Block Club - Pat Kuhlman

Homeowners Association of Palmer Square - Steve Hier

Humboldt Park Social Services - Delia Ramirez

Irving Park Neighbors Association- Mark Brinkman

Latinos United -

Logan Square Neighborhood Association - Kathy Tholin

Logan Square Preservation - Ward Miller

Logan Square Walks - Lisa Phillips

Logan Triangle Association - John Parizek

LSRA - Sam Tamburo

North Logan Block Club - Carolyn Fortman

Near North Neighborhood (NNNN)- Ruben Feliciano; alternate: Katie Gems

Unity Park Advisory Council - Jane Heron

West Logan Block Club - Edgar Aponte

Westtown 5 - Nelida Smyser-DeLeon

Whipple Concerned Alliance of Neighbors (WeCan) - Kevin Palmer

ZAC Non-Voting Technical Advisors

3600 N. St. Louis Block Club - Adolfo Santos

Architects- Doug Gillespie

Bickerdike Redevelopment - Michael Burton

Hispanic American Construction Industry Association - Oscar Fragoso

Laborers Local One - Tony Aiello

LEED Council - Mike Holzer

Real Estate - Mark Fishman, Dulce Ramos, Harry Rivera

Former Zoning Administrator - Tom Smith

c. What is your long-range plan for the development of the ward?

Our ward will improve upon the responsible development practices we have adopted and will serve as a model for other areas. While our city is experiencing a great many changes, we will preserve our local treasures as we grow and prosper. In my next term, I will advance to “Pro-Active Zoning.” The 35th Ward Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) must evolve into a body that will be equipped to recommend ward-wide zoning plans rather than responding to zoning change requests created by the market. Simultaneously, I am working with the Logan Square Chamber on a mapping project of our TIF District; exploring “Parking Improvement Districts” growing our new Farmer’s Market, the Boulevard Community Arts Festival and many other initiatives.

7. How do you intend to handle requests for zoning variances in your ward?

The ZAC’s primary responsibility is to ensure that new developments requiring a zoning change fit within the neighborhood’s architectural character, suit its surroundings, allow for stable growth, integrates green space and other environmentally friendly elements.

Projects that fit within these criteria are approved and presented to residents at a public meeting. As Alderman, I weigh the feedback from the ZAC and the community prior to making a decision. This summary of the zoning changes I approved in the 35th Ward since the beginning of 2003 is my best example of transparency:

241 properties reviewed for zoning changes		
81%	Approved	(195 properties)
	84% Down-zoned	(164 properties)
	16% Up-zoned	(32 properties)
12%	Denied	(28 properties)
3%	Pending	(7 properties)
4%	Withdrawn	(10 properties)

- ✓ Approved projects with more than 10 units are required to provide 15% affordable housing.
- ✓ As of 2006, 8 affordable housing units have been created by projects requesting zoning changes and \$115,000 raised for the Low Income Housing Trust Fund.

8. a. What steps should be taken to achieve greater accountability and transparency in determining how TIF funds should be spent?

Open Public Meetings on TIF related projects and proposals. I have worked to designate TIF for its intended purpose; to spur economic growth in the 35th Ward. I am committed to revitalizing the ward’s business districts. More than 50 qualifying small business owners have been awarded grants for improvement from the City of Chicago’s Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF). Additionally, the TIF has encouraged business development in the California-Armitage area. We are completing a major streetscape project on Fullerton Avenue which has incorporated upgrades and decorative elements which promote the community. The TIF is being utilized to purchase the corner property on Logan Boulevard at Milwaukee to further the goals of the Open Space Plan with a Market Plaza.

Future potential TIF funded projects include historical renovation of the Logan Square Comfort Station, the Morris B. Sachs Building on Diversey, Kimball and Milwaukee Avenues, a proposed mixed-use Commercial/Residential Affordable Housing Project on Armitage Avenue, and proposed support to the relocate of the American Theatre Company to Milwaukee Avenue bringing quality, live theatre into our area, just to name a few. As Alderman I will continue to leverage neighborhood improvements and keep constituents informed about them. I will facilitate open meetings and accept public testimony on acquisitions and proposed projects.

b. How will you involve residents in planning and approval of future TIF districts?

Open Public Meetings on TIF related projects and proposals. TIF Districts in the 35th Ward were established prior to my administration, however I was involved in re-mapping the Fullerton Milwaukee TIF District which did include public input.

c. Do you support terminating a TIF when the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is over? **I would consider it only if all objectives for the TIF District are met.**

d. Do you support extending the South Loop TIF? Why or why not?

The TIF is a valuable community development tool when used correctly.

The Alderman serving the South Loop must represent their communities in this decision just as I did when extending the Fullerton Milwaukee TIF in the 35th Ward. If there is a perceived problem with this TIF, it should be resolved in that area.

9. How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that are lost to TIF development?

Allocate TIF funds for related projects. CPS for example will benefit by a \$30M allocation for the construction of a new school from the Fullerton Milwaukee TIF.

10. a. Did you support or would you have supported the Big Box Living Wage Ordinance?

I was a co-sponsor of the Big Box Living Wage Ordinance along with Alderman Joe Moore and Alderman Freddrenna Lyle.

I put the Big Box Living Wage Ordinance on a ward-wide advisory referendum which received an 84% favorable vote. I actively worked on securing support for the ordinance and lined-up 100% support from the other Latino Alderman when the ordinance initially passed. Unfortunately, the Big Box Living Wage Ordinance was ultimately vetoed by the mayor and ultimately, several aldermen flipped on their vote. IVI/IPO recognized my efforts in this area. The labor community also presented me with a Big Box Warrior Award. To date, I maintain the best aldermanic voting record in support of issues relevant to the labor community.

b. Why or why not?

It was the right thing to do, and I was able to document my ward's support for the ordinance.

c. What changes, if any, would you support if the Ordinance were introduced again?

I would consider supporting an ordinance that goes beyond Big Box retail establishments.

d. Would you support any kind of municipal living wage ordinance?

Yes, but not just *any* kind. Various versions have been proposed. I would have to base my support on what the municipal living wage ordinance entails and if it will make its intended impact on poverty.

HOUSING

11. Please comment on the housing problems in your ward.

Most people are fairly content with their own housing. Beyond paid housing advocates and organizers, few people express concerns about the ability to afford housing for themselves and their families. Many however, do communicate the high cost of housing as preventing them from progressing and moving into new homes, near better schools, or to safer community areas. There seems to be a common perception by the general public that low and moderate-income families lack affordable housing. Most people don't understand the positive impact affordable housing has on the greater community or that it benefits more than just one segment of it. The 35th Ward is diverse and there is high-level of support for affordable housing, but it coexists with serious resistance to affordable housing.

The 35th Ward is stronger and healthier than it has been in my lifetime. Neighborhoods around us are booming and we have seen major investment in some of our most neglected areas. But despite the signs of vigor in the housing market and local economy, we are challenged with a number of issues. In my experience, housing costs are still too excessive for too many people. In Chicago, over 225,000 households or 38% of all rented households pay more than 30% of their income for rent. 73,000 homeowners pay even more on their mortgages. I have heard that of the ten largest U.S. cities, Chicago is the third most affordable.

However, according to 2000 census data, the affordability gap is widened for households below 30% of the Median Family Income. This population needs an estimated 181,150 affordable rental units when there are only 123,055 available. This means that more than 58,000 renter households need affordable rental units. This is a city-wide issue and we need a city-wide approach. I have demonstrated a readiness on the part of local government to take responsibility for assisting people in this area as our community prospers.

12. How will you increase low-income rental housing and home ownership opportunities that would be affordable to those at 15%-30% of AMI? In addition to securing funds for the Low-Income Trust Fund and implementing an Inclusionary Housing policy in my ward, I am also working with Bikerdike Redevelopment Corporation, the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, the Department of Housing and the Department of Planning and Development on a potential 70-Unit affordable rental project on Armitage Avenue.

13. a. Do you support one-for-one replacement of each unit of demolished subsidized housing, even though Federal law no longer requires it? **I support one-for-one replacement of subsidized housing evenly divided and integrated throughout Chicago's 50 wards. The concentration of subsidized housing to only certain areas or wards defeats the intent of creating mixed-income communities.**

b. What should be done to provide housing for those families displaced from public housing and not eligible for relocation under the CHA transformation plan? **Families displaced from public housing are given the choice to move to another CHA unit, select a temporary or permanent voucher and move into the private market. The ambitious Ten-Year Plan for Transformation replaces unsafe, high-rise housing with new mixed-income communities. All residents of public housing should be able to live ordinary Chicago communities. We are at the mid-point of the Ten-Year Plan and CHA has built or rehabbed half of the 25,000 units. CHA is also rehabilitating its entire inventory of scattered site developments and senior citizen buildings.**

c. How should the transformation plan be amended to adequately provide for the needs of low income people with disabilities? **CHA representatives must work closely with each family to plan out voucher options and provide the support needed to find the right housing choice; especially for low income people with disabilities.**

d. What should be done to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? **As elected officials, we need to encourage and market to more local property owners with family sized units to accept vouchers and participate in the Section 8 program. It may also be necessary to help property owners in navigating through the CHA.**

e. What should be done to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? **As a leader, you must continue to advocate for those with the greatest need. This must be done by example and on both a ward and city-wide level. In the 35th Ward we have leveraged affordable housing with zoning change requests and raised significant dollars for the Low Income Housing Trust Fund.**

14. Do you support halfway houses and shelters for the homeless in your ward?

Yes. As a former non-profit administrator I support many human service initiatives. However programs like this are rarely understood or accepted by the immediate property owners for fear that the neighborhood will deteriorate or that their property values will drop. I recently learned this first-hand in one of my ward's communities. The possibility of creating supportive housing has created local controversy. In general, people support halfway houses, shelters or supportive housing as long as it is in someone else's backyard.

15. a. Do you think Chicago's Tenants' Rights Ordinance is being adequately implemented?

b. What changes, if any, should be made? **During my tenure, I have received no major complaints from tenants in this area.**

16. a. Do you support an inclusionary zoning ordinance which would require developers to set aside 15% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?

I am a co-sponsor of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and implement it in my ward even though it has not been passed by the Chicago City Council. To support economic diversity I have demonstrated my commitment to create and provide affordable housing for people with various incomes. We have been working with developers to register for the CPAN program and are now getting these affordable units put into the Chicago Land Trust so that we can make them permanently affordable.

EDUCATION

17. a. How will you work to ease overcrowding and improve the quality of public schools and after school recreational activities? **A new school is being built on Milwaukee Avenue to relieve school overcrowding in areas of rapid growth. This is not in my ward, but will serve our constituents.**

Logandale Middle School has the Boys and Girls Club provide children with quality programs and activities after-school hours. I will continue to develop these kinds of programs and partnerships with concerned individuals schools, parks, organized groups and non-profit organizations.

b. How will you work to improve maintenance and rehab of aging schools?

The squeaky wheel gets the oil. We must continue to involve parents and residents in advocating for more local resources and identifying more local schools for the School Campus Park program. CPS has a long list of schools needing capital improvements, but does not have the funding to go with it. In my next term I will improve relations with schools by attending LSC meetings quarterly and meeting with principals on a quarterly basis.

18. Do you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?

Children should attend school as close to home as possible. Their school days should not consist of a high amount of travel time. Every school should operate like a magnet.

19. a. 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.

The school closing plan needs to be assessed for the impact to children, teachers, and parents. The impact of human life needs to be considered first before considering the numbers of a school's population or test scores. I have met with high school students experiencing the transition. This is a very sensitive age in the life of a child and teenager. It appears the plan has not taken into consideration the psychological impact of the children being affected. It creates pressure and stress within the school environment among students turning violent in some schools. In the best interest of the development of our youth this needs to be considered and addressed before considering school closings. School closings require dramatic change for some people. How that change plays out in the community is where the challenges are. The system isn't sensitive and does not always understand its community or the impact these dramatic changes have on students. Too often, Chicago Public Schools fails to engage local leaders in the process or take into consideration any cultural or social situations occurring in the neighborhood. Chicago Public Schools must also get out of the transportation business. Students should not spend so much time in their day in travel to find a school that meets their needs or interests because there are no quality schools in their own neighborhood.

Renaissance 2010 has merit. The basic philosophy is that schools which consistently demonstrate underperformance must start over. Under The Renaissance 2010 plan, Chicago would open 100 new public schools by 2010. These schools would provide new educational options, like military academies; vocational education; selective enrollment and international baccalaureate, schools specializing in world languages, math and science, performing arts; and early college schools offering motivated high-school students opportunities to earn college credits. This model welcomes outside partners who want to get into the business of education.

Starting over and loosing a school, whether for low enrollment or low performance is difficult. Children, faculty and the parents who make up a good part of the community, have emotional ties to even troubled-elementary and high schools. In theory, transforming Chicago's Public School system in neighborhoods is necessary. In reality, closing down a school is not easy.

Even schools with good performance are concerned when a Charter School opens nearby for fear that students and resources would be lost and threaten the school's current good performance.

b. At what level of government should decisions be made regarding allocation of Chapter One funds?

c. How would you change the selection and approval process for the mayor's appointments to the Board of Education?

20. What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?

The best schools evolve locally. Create quality improvement plans with the involvement of the students themselves. Engage Parents in a partnership between the School Principal, Chicago Public Schools, and the Local School Council in focus groups and create a plan to improve and maintain the school. One of my ward office staff is also specifically assigned to work with schools and keep me informed of the local needs that arise.

21. What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?

Local School Council's govern the local schools and have the authority to hire and fire of School Principals. I honor that and work with Principals to ensure that they have everything they need to make the school successful. This entails:

- **Advocating on behalf of LSC's and their Principals to CPS for needed resources**
- **Participate in key events:**
- **Career Days, Guest Reader Days, Principal for a Day, Keynote Speaking at Graduations**
- **Sponsoring Events**
- **Providing Wooden Traffic Horses and 2-Way Radios for Parent Patrols**
- **Creating Safe-Passage Programs with police, business, community leaders and educators and service organizations,**
- **Identifying needy students to support during the holidays and throughout the year**
- **Resolving conflicts between parents and faculty.**
- **Providing traffic calming around all public and private schools**
- **Working with Principals on Open Space Plan Campus Park renovations**
- **Increase Pre-School and Head Start opportunities to prepare youth for elementary school.**
- **Acknowledge teachers, principals for student performance (Unsung Heroes Program)**
- **Providing recognition for Students with Good Attendance**

ENVIRONMENT

22. As Blue Bag recycling is phased out and replaced with point separation, what steps should be taken to
a. ensure participation of small businesses and non-profits in the recycling program?

The 2007 budget provides funding to expand the pilot program for separate trash and recyclables collections. Currently operating in a small section of one ward, the program will operate in seven complete wards next year. The year-round recycling will also collect yard waste from April through November. The City will provide 44 positions and the State of Illinois will provide an \$8 million grant over four years to purchase the needed additional blue recycling carts.

The Ward Superintendents will have to provide education to residents, small businesses and non-profits to ensure that they know the ordinances and become familiar with the new recycling practices.

In the 35th Ward, we educate. When that fails, we enforce. The main goal is always to improve the health of the community and increase the rate of compliance.

b. identify adequate markets for recycled materials?

The Mayor is on a mission to make Chicago the greenest city in America. As a result, Chicago has some impressive initiatives. A visit to the Chicago Center for Green Technology at Franklin and Sacramento Boulevards is a great way to start appreciating the amazing possibilities we are creating in this area. The city has made efforts to adopt a series of "green" environmentally friendly technologies which include sun-powered bus shelters, sidewalks made of recycled rubber, CTA railroad ties made of recycled milk jugs and alleys made of porous concrete where water drains into the ground instead of pooling. There are many future opportunities to re-use materials and create new jobs.

23. What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? **Waive permit fees; accelerate the permit process, increase flexibility in zoning variances and special use for green businesses, create other incentives and cost offsets that make alternative forms of energy more attractive to builders and homeowners.**

PARKS

24. a. Do you support increased privatization of facilities and services? **I am not an advocate of privatization. From an aldermanic standpoint it is especially difficult to trace accountability of contractors over in-house forces. While employed with the Chicago Park District, cuts were made and some areas were privatized. We held the line on taxes. In my opinion, since then we have cut too much, collaborated too little and neglected too many neighborhood parks; while creating magnificent, high-profile tourist park attractions downtown.**

b. Have the court decrees mandating equal park services in both programs and capital improvements been adequately achieved in your ward? **The 35th Ward is fortunate to have an exciting Open Space Plan to create more recreational opportunities. In the next few years, the 35th Ward will be able to enjoy more open space as several projects are in development. To address the area's lack of recreational space, I have worked closely with the community, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to create the Logan Square Open Space Plan for the 35th Ward. These meetings began prior to my election where I participated as a community leader; once elected, I worked closely with these city departments to complete this comprehensive plan which was ultimately passed by City Council. The Open Space Plan will bring more open, green spaces to the Ward. This plan was adopted by the Chicago Planning Commission last summer. Some of the projects include:**

- **Transforming the Bloomingdale rail corridor into a linear park that features a bike trail and passive space**
- **Constructing the Kennedy Expressway Park Space which includes the Artesian and Western Park and skate park**
- **Creating a "Velveteen Rabbit" themed park at Palmer Square with a running track**
- **Developing Brentano Campus Park**
- **Creating a Logan Square Market Plaza to house our new Farmer's Market**
- **Assigning \$50,000 in capital improvement funds for Athletic Field Park's water feature**
- **Improving pedestrian and bicycle connections**

c. How have cuts in the park district budget affected parks in your ward?

The 35th Ward ranks second in all of Chicago for the *least* amount of open and green space. In response to this problem, along with hundreds of concerned residents I have participated in a year-long series of public meetings hosted by the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and the Chicago Park District.

25. Do you believe Chicago's park system is adequately funded? **No.**

I helped local neighbors establish a Local Advisory Council at Athletic Field. Once they became active, we then approached the Chicago Park District to work with the Athletic Field Local Advisory Council to create a Master Plan for the park (unfunded of course). However with the plan in place and a budget target to shoot for, we have begun to secure resources from local elected officials. The Athletic Field Advisory Council has made a big difference in the increased programming, equipment and will see capital improvements eventually. The Athletic Field Local Advisory has community carnivals, fundraisers and to date the park has secured about \$250,000. Their momentum of hope has compelled me to allocate \$50,000 from the 2007 aldermanic menu.

26. Do you support sitting the main/opening Olympic venue in Washington Park? **Yes. Bring the Olympics to Chicago and let's showcase as many of the diverse communities which make up this great city as we can.**

TRANSPORTATION

27. a. What will you do to expand CTA services to more neighborhoods?

Continue to promote the use of public transportation.

b. Is CTA service sufficient in your ward? **The blue-line could use additional rail-cars to reduce those left behind during rush hours. We could use bus service on Kedzie going north from Milwaukee Avenue. We could also use owl service on Armitage Avenue. According to CTA, the ridership is insufficient to extend these services.**

c. Should the City increase its subsidy to the CTA?

Yes, however the city already subsidizes the CTA with infrastructure.

28. In what situations would you support permit parking?

I honor permit parking when neighbors secure signatures from 70% of the people who reside on any given block. The petition form is available in my ward office and on the website.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

29. a. Is response time adequate in 911 services? **Yes, but not always.**

b. Are there inequities in 911 services in your ward? If so, what can be done to redress them?

Building relationships with neighbors to collaboratively utilize 911 is the best that can be done.

We must involve neighbors in a collaborative 911 approach. Inequities in safety often result from our own indifference when we fail to organize ourselves to get things done as one.

You would be amazed at how few people call to report crime. Part of my involvement with CAPS is promoting, block parties, phone trees and block clubs.

30. a. Do you support community policing?

Yes. When implemented correctly, CAPS is the best model for citizen involvement in crime reduction and the sharing of information. After a 4-year decline in the city's overall crime rate, homicides are up slightly over last year. The success of CAPS is determined by the community participants and the police. Community participation is the key. The impact of CAPS is jeopardized when police officers do not believe in the program, have not received adequate training or are unwilling to allow citizens to take the lead in facilitating meetings. In changing communities like those in the 35th Ward, we must also ensure that community participants do not misuse the CAPS program to unfairly target innocent constituents based on their biases, conflicts or cultural differences. I attend or have staff represent me at local beat meetings. One problem-neighbor can improve or disrupt the character of and the entire city block. My office also resolves issues with problem buildings and properties by bringing together police, concerned neighbors and the property owners. Together we create a plan of action for improvement and monitor its progress.

The trend in crime in the 35th Ward today compared to when I was elected is as follows:

Beats 2523, 2524					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Homicide	3	4	2	2	
Sexual Assault	8	12	9	7	
Robbery	176	121	91	109	
Agg. Battery	46	48	50	32	
Agg. Assault	82	68	73	62	
Burglary	270	260	226	210	
Theft	700	655	475	397	
Auto Theft	280	240	212	145	
Arson	10	13	3	5	
Totals	1575	1421	1141	969	5106

Beat 1732					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Homicide	0	0	0	0	
Sexual Assault	1	1	1	1	
Robbery	19	20	12	9	
Agg. Battery	6	2	0	2	
Agg. Assault	3	11	6	4	
Burglary	107	90	83	61	
Theft	344	250	265	189	
Auto Theft	134	120	131	78	
Arson	0	0	1	0	
Totals	614	494	499	344	1951

Beats 1411, 1412, 1414, 1421					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Homicide	8	5	9	7	
Sexual Assault	20	15	15	19	
Robbery	239	212	210	162	
Agg. Battery	28	130	123	85	
Agg. Assault	40	75	83	78	
Burglary	375	420	322	336	
Theft	1157	1317	930	911	
Auto Theft	320	369	331	281	
Arson	15	14	15	10	
Totals	2202	2557	2038	1889	8686

b. What improvements would you suggest for this program?

A Next Generation CAPS Program held in High Schools involving youth participants. This would enhance youth safety, improve police/youth relations and promote involvement in CAPS at an early age.

31. Should the City 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?

I believe we are liable for the actions of Commander Jon Burge. He tortured suspects in the 1980's and the Police Department looked the other way. These actions or rather, failure to take action is the city's responsibility. I would not be opposed to the city attempting to recover past legal fees for those that allowed Burge's misconduct. But it is more important to create a new system and improve methods of identifying complaint patterns against officers. We must enforce ethical conduct. Stricter penalties for police officials who deliberately ignore corruption may also be necessary.

32. Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Office of Professional Standards and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department. **Usually, a relatively small number of police officers are responsible for the vast majority of complaints. For this same reason, it should not be that difficult to narrow down police misconduct. The Department's methods of investigating its own may be flawed or present some conflict of interest. If police officials don't enforce the policies or police internal affairs are aware of numerous allegations against officers, but fail to take disciplinary action against them, then maybe it is time to pilot another investigative body.**

REVENUE AND BUDGET

33. Do you favor a budget ordinance which would require?

a. public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?

Yes. Commissioners should appear before the city council on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

Commissioners should update the city council more than just once a year.

b. budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?

Budget copies available to Alderman 30 days in advance of hearings would be an excellent place to begin.

c. 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?

Concerned citizens should have the opportunity to explore programming ideas and priorities with community groups, not-for-profit organizations and local businesses. Public hearings are already held at two stages in the planning process to ensure that citizen priorities and needs are addressed. The first public hearing was held in April 2006 and the second in October 2006.

34. a. Do you support casino gambling for Chicago? **No.**

b. Would you support a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?

Yes. I have already put this matter on a ward-wide advisory referendum where it received a 56% vote against gambling.

35. What level of city support do you favor for the arts and cultural events? **It's never enough. I believe city-wide arts and cultural events receive great opportunities, but we must do more to promote arts and cultural events locally. I am in the process of creating a Milwaukee Avenue Arts District. I have utilized services and resources to attract arts organizations like; The American Theatre Company, The Arts Alliance, the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, The Elastic Arts Foundation, the Chicago Ballet Company and others.**

I have also established an annual community arts festival to celebrate the diverse cultures, food music and entertainment represented in our community. Diversity really means that we don't agree on much, but arts and culture are the happy medium.

36. Do you support?

a. rescinding the recent Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases?

No. I earn my salary and the taxpayers get their moneys worth with me.

b. limiting Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?

I could agree to the aldermanic salary being limited to the same percentage increase as the lowest raise for any class of city employee, however, given the immense responsibilities, I believe aldermanic salaries should be in the same range as the city commissioners.

37. Do you support increasing the number of staff positions for aldermanic service offices?

Yes. The 35th Ward's Community Service Center receives an average of 200 calls per day, retrieves numerous voicemails, e-mails, faxes and walk-ins. In order to efficiently serve the many diverse needs and interests of our constituents, taxpayers would greatly benefit by having additional staff at the ward office level.

CITY COUNCIL

38. a. What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee structure?

I consider the City Council's committee structure efficient. Perhaps more meetings should occur during hours that are more convenient for the general public to attend.

b. Do you favor keeping the current number of committees? **Yes.**

39. a. Do you support a rule requiring the numbering of proposed City ordinances? **Yes.**

b. Do you support a rule requiring all city council proceedings to be transcribed verbatim and published by the City Clerk? **Yes. They should be available on-line.**

c. Do you support mandating the Clerk's office to provide copies of pending ordinances to the public upon request? **Yes. They should also be available on-line.**

d. Do you support a rule requiring roll call votes?

Not on all votes. City Council members still have the option of being recorded as voting; "yes" or "no" on any and every vote. I would consider a rule requiring roll call votes only if it could be done efficiently. This may require restructuring the meetings to limit the amount of resolutions recognizing individuals at the beginning of each City Council assembly. To date, resolutions account for about half of the time spent executing City Council meetings.

CIVIL RIGHTS

40. a. Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?

Yes. Race, gender and sexual orientation shouldn't matter, but without setting criteria and monitoring progress, equal opportunity will not occur. Chicago is 41% Caucasian, 36% Black including African-American, 29% Latino, 5% Asian, 15% Other and 3% Multi-racial. I believe that the city's workforce should have the goal of reflecting these percentages. We are moving in the right direction, but unfortunately there are still disparities in race, gender and sexual orientation.

b. Do you support affirmative action as criteria in letting city contracts?

Yes. The City of Chicago has a Minority and Women-owned Business (M/WBE) Procurement Program where businesses must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a minority or woman and must be city-certified. I believe the Chicago's growth and economic stability is enhanced by promoting the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in contracting opportunities.

c. 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.

"If you want someone to take you there, it is best to be lead by someone who has been there."

That's my quote. Minority participation in city hiring and contracts including firefighter and police officer recruitment will never fully reflect the population of the City of Chicago until a minority is elected as mayor. That's my opinion.

41. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

Wages should not be different based on gender.

42. Do you support requiring all City vendors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?

I support spousal benefits for same-sex partners. I am not convinced that targeting city vendors is the best way to accomplish this.

ETHICS & CAMPAIGNING

43. Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?

No. I support hiring based on competency, skills and experience.

The promotion of public employees should be based on their job performance and not on volunteer activities. Employees should be hired based on their qualifications not political affiliations.

Everyone wins when city employees are motivated to perform at their best.

At the ward office level, experience has taught me that loyalty of the personal staff is also as necessary as qualifications. Competency, skills and experience without loyalty impacts the ability of the elected official to achieve peak performance in constituent services.

44. Do you support the Accountability in Privatization Ordinance?

Yes. Cost efficiency both short term and long term should be demonstrated and monitored.

45. In what circumstances should the City contract for outside professional services? Please comment on any existing abuses.

The city should contract for outside professional services when a function cannot be performed by existing staff. I consider any legal fees paid out to fight the Shakman Decree an abuse and a waste of money.

46. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Chicago?

Only if there are not qualified companies or firms in the city. Why or why not?

Hiring from within the city should be a priority.

47. a. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office that holds other public sector jobs concurrently?

During his 1-year tenure, my former Chief of Staff, Ed Reyes was on a leave of absence from his job as a State Trooper. His leadership and discipline was crucial in establishing my initial ward services operation.

Full-time jobs in the public sector are demanding as they should be. Most companies will only give you one job, just as government should only give you one job. Since no one can be at two places at the same time, no one should get paid for working two places at the same.

b. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office that has either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?

I have not employed staff with entities that do business with the City. I have employed part-time employees with outside employment on a contractual basis to perform specialized services for the ward in the areas of marketing, special events, translation, training facilitation and business development.

48. Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
Not to my knowledge.

49. Do you support extending all of the provisions of the City Ethics Ordinance to City Council members?
I abide by the city's ethics ordinance.

50. Do you support expanding the jurisdiction of the City Inspector General to include City Council members?
The Chicago City Council would not support this. I was very critical of the performance of our previous City Inspector General because both the media and federal government were able to find corruption, but he was not. I couldn't tell if his job to find corruption or cover it up because he wasn't doing a good job at either one.

51. Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position.
It is a candidate's responsibility to raise funds and to determine how to best utilize them for their campaigns. Under today's rules it is considered unethical to subsidize political activities with taxpayer dollars. Prior to taking elected office, I thought that public financing of local campaigns could level the playing field. I thought it could allow candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their management skills before taking public office. I also thought it could prevent private contributors with self interests to field candidates for corporate gain. However, look backing at the fund raising process I underwent both as a challenger and now as an elected official, I realize that fundraising is an essential job skill needed not only for political campaigns, but also to respond to the many needs and requests from the community. During non-election seasons, my office receives numerous requests to buy ads, sponsor sports teams, support food, clothing and toy drives, sponsor senior citizen events, block parties and provide general contributions to a wide variety of efforts.

As committeeman, I am responsible for raising funds to ensure honesty and quality for each local election. The viability of any elected official is the ability to leverage private dollars both large and small and demonstrate local support. It isn't always easy to ask for money. Many of us dread it, but it is a necessary skill for success once elected. As a challenger, I had to raise funds. As an incumbent, I still have to. My challengers must do the same. Collecting signatures, recruiting volunteers and raising funds are all measurable benchmarks that define how well of a campaign we execute. It also demonstrates our abilities as elected officials. I don't have a big political campaign war chest. Throughout my term I have raised what I could to support the local neighborhood groups and now I must raise what I can to run a respectable campaign and get myself re-elected.

52. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?

- 1. Armitage Produce \$2,500**
- 2. Zina Murray \$2,500**
- 3. Debit Connections \$2,500**
- 4. Balcor \$2,500**
- 5. Star Auto Group \$2,500**

53. Are you supporting any mayoral candidate?

Yes. I am supporting Richard M. Daley for re-election.

We both agree that we do not always agree, but I do believe of all the candidates, he is the best prepared to serve as Mayor for the City of Chicago in 2007.

**"Never be afraid to stand with the minority when the minority is right,
for the minority which is right will one day be the majority."
William Jennings Bryan**