



Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)

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On the Web : www.gagdc.org

WINTER **The VISION** 2009

**White House
Urban
Affairs
Official Visits
Elev8
Consortium**



Perspectives Charter Middle School students eagerly rushed to take a historic photo with the White House new director of Urban Affairs, Adolfo Carrion Jr. Carrion was equally excited by the students' warm welcome and embrace as he reminded of his experience as a public school teacher. Photo: Eric Young

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) participated in Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago's (LISC/Chicago) New Communities Program (NCP) annual conference (Chicago Rising: What a Community Can Be) which featured as the keynote speaker, Adolfo Carrion Jr.

Recently named by President Barack Obama as the director of the new White House Office of Urban Affairs, Carrion engaged nearly 500 conference attendees about the importance of urban renewal and revival.

Carrion remarks were of much value to attendees as he shared his personal aspirations of "taking urban America out of the desert it's been in for the past eight years."

Previous to his new position, Carrion headed New York's Bronx Borough fo-

cus on housing and development of at least 25,000 dwellings and worked for New York's planning department. He also served on the New York City Council.

The following day of the conference, Carrion toured Auburn Gresham's proposed Winneconna Transit Oriented Development, the Litter Free Zone piloted area, and the Oglesby Elementary School Yard Project, highlighting an unusual amount of foreclosed homes around this school. Carrion also visited the Auburn Gresham Elev8 Consortium to include: Perspectives Calumet Middle School, Access Community Health Network (ACCESS at Perspectives), and Saint Sabina's Employment Resource Center (ERC)-Center for Working Families (CWF).

In the end, the Auburn Gresham consortium wanted the new White House director of Urban Affairs to be reminded

of the significance of his calling to our community and send word back to President Barack Obama about the importance of partnering with community based organizations and institutions, thus offering extended day academic curriculum, affordable and quality healthcare, and social supports/wrap around services.



**GREATER AUBURN-GRESHAM
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The mission of the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) is to foster and promote revitalization of the greater Auburn Gresham community, which includes Auburn-Gresham, Englewood, and West Chatham.

Mayor Daley Announces the Smart Communities: Chicago Digital Excellence Initiative



Mayor Richard M. Daley announced the Smart Communities: Chicago Digital Excellence Initiative at the Churchview Senior Building along with Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Julius Genachowski and other key stakeholders involved in this city-wide demonstration. Photo: Gordon Walek

Mayor Richard M. Daley accompanied with Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Julius Genachowski and host of other civic and community leaders unveiled the Smart Communities Digital Excellence Initiative aimed at reducing the digital divide in Chicago. This initiative is a collaboration of the City of Chicago, MacArthur Foundation, Local Initiatives Support

Corporation (LISC/Chicago) and 'Smart Communities' Chicago neighborhoods: Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Pilsen.

Mayor Daley expressed in his comments that regardless of difficult economic times, the City of Chicago should be committed to address the challenges of the digital divide.

"Creating broadband infrastructure and access to technology in our neighborhoods is just as important to cities in

the 21st century as paving streets and building water systems and utility systems that were in the 19th and 20th centuries," he said.

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation's (GADC) & New Communities Program manager, Ernest Sanders and Julie Welborn, co-owner of Perfect Peace Cafe & Bakery offered remarks regarding the importance of the Smart Communities Initiative in Auburn Gresham.

Also during this press conference, Mayor Daley announced Microsoft's commitment of an additional \$1.03 million in software grants to non-profit organizations in the Smart Communities. He too spoke of Hewlett-Packard's (HP) support and their investment of TouchSmart PC's at key locations in the Smart Communities.

City Housing Delegates Convene

GADC held the 4th Quarter Housing Resource Center (HRC) South Region meeting for City of Chicago's Southside delegate agencies at Soul Food Unlimited restaurant. Guest speakers included GADC's own Tenisha Jones, Tom Raleigh of Pangea Real Estate, reverse mortgage specialist, Yvette LaGrande, and Richard Wooten of Wooten Security who gave useful information to delegates on how to safeguard homes and deter unwarranted activity in communities.

Litter Free Zone Provides Eco-friendly Job Opportunities Through the City of Chicago



GADC's 'Litter Free Zone Initiative' Coordinator, Hubert Newkirk prepares to unload his vehicle of recyclable bags at the 17th Ward Aldermanic parking lot. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Mayor Richard M. Daley recently announced that the City of Chicago will receive funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to create community-based green jobs for the hard-to-employ, including the formerly incarcerated over the next two years.

The City will use these funds to support two new green job training initiatives: the Green Job Work Experience and Community

Green Jobs. Both programs were developed by the City and its non-profit and business partners.

The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), a City delegate agency was selected based on several competitive requests for proposals (RFP).

GADC will receive funds through the Community Green Jobs initiative to help leverage and enhance its existing litter free program by providing up to 10 eco-friendly jobs.

Also as part of this partnership with the City, GADC's Green Ambassadors will be trained in the specifics of community-based litter prevention which includes a three step process to engage our residents in active recycling.

Help Be Litter Free in AG!!!

International Grocer Looks to End Food Desert in Auburn Gresham

International grocery retail store, ALDI opened a new 18,000 square foot store on the south side of Chicago at 7627 S. Ashland Avenue.

ALDI's in-store merchandise is similar if not better than other grocery competitors. They currently stock 1,400 commonly purchased items and have relationships with other food manufacturers. 98% of ALDI's merchandise is Select Brands. Select Brands are ALDI's private label, high quality and best value items.

ALDI as well is concerned about their customer's healthy consumption and offers merchandise under the "Fit and Active" label as well as 50-80 items of fresh produce.

ALDI is able to offer these popular alternatives without requiring consumers to buy in bulk.

ALDI also partnered with Auburn Gresham-based and Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Ujamaa Construction as the general contractor. As a result, Ujamaa employed seven other qualified MBEs and Women Business Enterprises (WBE) representing 50% of the total cost of the project. They also worked with Saint Sabina Employment Resource Center to hire local residents from the 15th and 17th Aldermanic Wards.

The project was completed as scheduled before the Thanksgiving holiday to the delight of ALDI, and Ujamaa Construction Inc.



<Photos (L/R): Ernest Sanders>

Oglesby School Yard Project Becomes a Reality

Imagine a community where schools are the center of neighborhood information. Parents can learn about local employment opportunities and services that enhance their quality of life.

Homeowners can access mortgage assistance information and seniors can discover programs that promote their well-being. Well there is no need to imagine because it actually took place in Auburn Gresham!

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) hosted its first School Yard Project at Oglesby Elementary School with partners Neighborhood Housing Services of Auburn Gresham and St. Sabina's Employment Resource Center.

Over 30 vendors participated, including the U.S. Census Bureau, The Safer Foundation, and the 006th District Police Station's



Pictured (L-R) Raymond Thompson (GADC), Alderman Latasha Thomas (D-17), Carlos Nelson and Tenisha Jones of GADC stand outside of Oglesby Elementary School. Photo: Ernest Sanders

Explorers Program. Youth resource fair attendees were so excited about the Explorers program that 12 youth signed up to become members that day.

Nearly 100 attendees learned about mortgage assistance, credit repair, and physical fitness techniques.

Alternatives, a youth and family agency, coordinated Oglesby School's Peace Room with games and fun for the children that attended. It was a day of family fun filled with life enhancing information.

For the grand finale Alderman Latasha Thomas helped to raffle off five turkeys and three ALDI, \$100 gift certificates just in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Schools are truly the center of our communities once again.

Free Hot Coffee Served on The Nine



For almost two and one-half hours, The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GADC) and Perfect Peace Café and Bakery gave away 160 cups of hot coffee as well as delicious cupcakes and cookies on 79th Street.

This event was coordinated by GADC's Aurora Cruz as she braved the cold elements of a typical November morning.

Please visit our website www.gagdc.org or contact Aurora Cruz at 773.483.3696 or email acruz@gagdc.org for the next FREE hot coffee and pastry day.

Auburn Gresham: Chicago's Best Kept Secret ! We Dare You to Tell Someone.



G A D C

BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD PRESIDENT
CORTEZ CARTER
QUEST DEVELOPMENT

VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES MILLER
STATEWAY ASSOCIATES,LLC

TREASURER
AMANDA NORMAN
75TH & PARNELL BLOCK CLUB

SECRETARY
DEBORAH MOORE
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BYAM ALEXANDER
SYNERGY FORCE

ALBERTA BROOKS
RESIDENT

KHAM BEARD
WAHLOMAK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RON MARTIN
THE JOHNSON GROUP

MICHAEL PFLEGER
FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. SABINA CHURCH

WILLARD DAYTON
NEW BIRTH CHURCH OF GOD
IN CHRIST

BETTY SWANSON
79TH CARPENTER BLOCK CLUB

BOARD ADVISOR

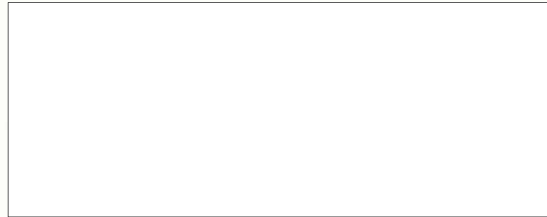
ALD. LATASHA THOMAS
17TH WARD

CARLOS NELSON
GADC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Greater Auburn-Gresham
Development Corporation**
1159 W. 79th Street
Chicago, IL 60620

Deliver To Current Resident:



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Upcoming Community Events

JANUARY 2010	FEBURARY 2010	MARCH 2010
Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshops / Every Thursday 6 pm-8 pm Neighborhood Housing Services 449 W. 79th St. 773-329-4185	Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshops / Every Thursday 6 pm-8 pm Neighborhood Housing Services 449 W. 79th St. 773-329-4185	Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshops / Every Thursday 6 pm-8 pm Neighborhood Housing Services 449 W. 79th St. 773-329-4185
Free Tax Preparation / Every Monday, Thursday, Saturday January 23rd - April 15th Intake Area 7903 S. Racine & Tax Preparation 1153 W. 79th St. Please call 773-483-3696 for more details	Free Tax Preparation / Every Monday, Thursday, Saturday January 23rd - April 15th Intake Area 7903 S. Racine & Tax Preparation 1153 W. 79th St. Please call 773-483-3696 for more details	Free Tax Preparation / Every Monday, Thursday, Saturday January 23rd - April 15th Intake Area 7903 S. Racine & Tax Preparation 1153 W. 79th St. Please call 773-483-3696 for more details
Job Readiness Workshops / Monday, January 11th - Friday, January 15th & Monday, January 25th - Friday, January 29th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760	Job Readiness Workshops / Monday, February 8th - Friday, February 12th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760	Job Readiness Workshops / Monday, March 8th - Friday, March 12th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760
Celebration of Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King / Saturday, January 16th 11:30 am - 2:00 pm SOS Children's Village 7600 S. Parnell Lavezzorio Community Center 773-783-0500, Ext	Elev8 Chicago Conference / Thursday, February 11th 9 am Marquette Elementary School 6550 S. Richmond 773-358-6300	Public Benefits Workshops and Prescreen Sign-up / Tuesday, March 16th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760
Public Benefits Workshops and Prescreen Sign-up / Tuesday, January 19th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760	Senior Breakfast & Blues Jam Fest / Saturday, February 13th 10 am - 12 pm Thurgood Marshall Library 7506 S. Racine 773-483-3696	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tours / Sunday, March 28th to Saturday, April 3rd The Beloved Community 7823 S. Racine 773-483-9858
	Public Benefits Workshops and Prescreen Sign-up / Tuesday, February 16th 10 am St. Sabina Church-Pehler Conference Room 1210 W. 78th Pl. 773-783-3760	
	Daycare Cultural Enrichment Day / Friday, February 19th 9 am - 11 am Thurgood Marshall Library 773.483.3696	

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