

HOUSINGBRONZEVILLE NEWS

SERVING THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF DOUGLAS, NEAR SOUTH SIDE, GRAND BOULEVARD, OAKLAND, KENWOOD, FULLER PARK & WASHINGTON PARK

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2009

IOC MEMBERS URGED TO GET THE REAL STORY!

BRONZEVILLE VOTERS SPEAK... DO YOU HEAR US MAYOR DALEY, PATRICK RYAN?

20,728 Voters Stand Up for Bronzeville

Bronzeville voters sent a loud and clear message on the November 4th ballot: YES! We do want the Mayor and the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee to act now on an affordable homeownership program for Bronzeville residents earning Chicago Median Income. YES! We do want the City to use 498 of the 1,914 vacant lots it has accumulated in Bronzeville for this purpose.

"It is a fact that every Olympic games has caused displacement of local residents, most recently of millions of people in Beijing last summer," said Ora Williams, local resident and Housing Bronzeville member. "In Bronzeville this means more than displacement; it also spells the end of a culture. Voters want the Mayor and Chicago 2016 to take steps now to reverse this historic trend by building Bronzeville Affordable Homes."

"Bronzeville's land—our land—has sat vacant for far too long," added Yolanda Williams. "The City has a unique opportunity to leave a legacy after 2016 of affordable homes in Bronzeville, while providing a model to the world of how this can be done. We want our homes to be green, part of environmentally sustainable communities, and genuinely affordable—in a price range of \$150,000 to \$175,000. We call on the Mayor and Chicago 2016 to respond to our voters' wishes by working with us to make this possible."



Mrs. Clara Gatewood-Brown welcomes Joseph Ahern to her home on December 22nd tour.

HOUSING BRONZEVILLE DEMANDS COMMITMENTS FROM CITY, 2016 OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Housing Bronzeville has been busy following through on the mandate of local voters from November 4th. On December 22nd, it gave a tour of Bronzeville to Joseph Ahern, Senior Adviser to Chicago 2016. It then presented him with a vision developed by Landon, Bone, Baker Architects and the group's Vision Casting Subcommittee of affordable homes at \$150,000 to \$175,000 in Bronzeville.



Housing Bronzeville presents its Olympic vision to Chicago 2016's Joseph Ahern at IIT on December 22nd.

Mr. Ahern suggested that the group meet with Deputy Commissioner Ellen Sahli of the Department of Community Development. This meeting took place on March 5th, with Mr. Arnold Randall, Director of Neighborhood Legacies for Chicago 2016 and liaison with Housing Bronzeville, in attendance to provide crucial expertise and support for Housing Bronzeville's affordable homeownership program.

Ms. Sahli's response at the meeting was equivocal:

1. Yes, the City would provide 493 city-owned vacant lots for Bronzeville Affordable Homes at the cost of \$1 per lot, in five phases with the first phase consisting of 50-100 homes.
2. No, the City would not commit to making the lots "developer-ready" for the homes.
3. No, the City would not commit to sending a written letter of support or appearing at a press conference with Housing Bronzeville to state its support for the homes.

"Ms. Sahli's attitude was cordial and constructive," commented Valencia Hardy of Housing Bronzeville. "But actions speak louder than words, especially in Chicago, and she was not prepared to commit to two out of three of our action steps. The time for action from the City is now."

BRONZEVILLE REFERENDUM RESULTS NOVEMBER 4, 2008

	YES	NO
WARD 2:	1,602	287
WARD 3:	8,646	1,215
WARD 4:	9,497	1,181
WARD 20:	<u>983</u>	<u>205</u>
TOTAL	20,728 (88%)	2,888 (12%)

Did You Know???



Map of Bronzeville with proposed venues for Olympic events.

- In 1960, Bronzeville had 26% moderate-income residents. Today we have less than 13% and that number is falling fast.
- One year ago, Housing Bronzeville submitted a proposed ordinance that would commit the City to work to restore Bronzeville's moderate-income population to 26%. Aldermen Toni Preckwinkle (4), Pat Dowell (3), Willie Cochran (20), and Bob Fioretti (2) appeared at a community meeting on April 22, 2008, attended by 250 Bronzeville residents, and refused to support the ordinance.
- According to Cook County Clerk David Orr's website, Bronzeville has twelve Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts which together generated more than \$28 million in Bronzeville's taxpayers' money in 2007 alone. This money is required by law to be used for local economic development.
- The City owns 1,914 vacant lots in Bronzeville. Of these, the City set aside at least 519 lots in the heart of Bronzeville for CHA replacement housing as part of the Plan for Transformation (lists provided to Housing Bronzeville on September 3, 2008). In ten different meetings with Housing Bronzeville in 2006-8, City officials and local aldermen failed to divulge this information to local residents.
- The International Olympic Committee consists of 110 members who will vote on the winning city for the 2016 Olympics on October 2, 2009 in Copenhagen. In addition to Chicago, the finalists are Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, and Tokyo.

EDITORIAL: BRONZEVILLE—A FITTING HOST FOR THE 2016 OLYMPICS?

Chicago's Mayor and 2016 Olympic Committee failed to ask the residents of Bronzeville if they would like to host the 2016 Olympics.

But such a move could still be a good choice if—and only if—the Mayor and Chicago 2016 choose to make the Olympic experience in Bronzeville a **win, win, win proposition**.

The International Olympic Committee could win by choosing a City with a firm commitment to an innovative affordable homeownership project and a demonstrated respect for the history and culture of African-Americans—conceived, supported, and funded by its host community. With a broad partnership in place, these homes could be built and occupied by Bronzeville's moderate-income residents by 2016, in time for the Chicago Olympic Games.

The City could win by drawing international attention to Chicago's most famous African-American community, known throughout the world for its rich black history and culture—initiated by the icons of Bronzeville who have shared with the world for decades their artistic, literary, musical, sports, and political gifts. Bronzeville's message of optimism and accomplishment could be the missing piece to ensure international recognition and approval for Chicago's bid—faulted up to now for failing to include local involvement and support.

Our Bronzeville community could win by gaining commitments from the Mayor and Chicago 2016 for a

genuine affordable homeownership program for thousands of Bronzeville residents earning Chicago Median Income. The City has stockpiled Bronzeville's land (1,914 currently vacant lots) and tax dollars (\$28 million in TIF dollars in 2007 alone)—Bronzeville residents are now insisting that these resources be used to benefit our community now. With a new green, affordable, sustainable homeownership program constructed and inhabited by Bronzeville residents in place by 2016, residents would benefit from the international attention and financial appreciation that the world's visitors could bring.

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the first stirrings of the great African-American migration to Chicago. We call upon Chicago to make the 2016 Olympics a proper celebration of this historic event—by building Bronzeville homes for Bronzeville residents on Bronzeville land.

Published by Housing Bronzeville 3424 S. State St. Suite #102, Chicago, Illinois 60616

Housing Bronzeville works to ensure a vibrant, politically empowered, economically diverse Bronzeville community by providing leadership to develop, maintain and support affordable home ownership through the establishment of a Bronzeville Housing Trust Fund. As a project of the Lugenia Burns Hope Center, **Housing Bronzeville** is a non-partisan organization dedicated to encouraging the improvement of all Bronzeville neighborhoods through extensive community educational and informational programs.

Please add me to the mailing list and sign me up to help **Housing Bronzeville's** campaign for affordable homeownership in Bronzeville:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I wish to work to contact IOC members to explain the importance of affordable homeownership in Bronzeville. I speak _____ (please list language[s]).

HOUSING BRONZEVILLE WEBSITE COMING SOON-visit www.standupforBronzeville.org!

Please return to Housing Bronzeville, 3424 S. State Street, Suite 102, Chicago, IL 60616; Phone: (312)949-9030