



Near North Unity Program (NNUP)
Membership Meeting NOTES
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Monday, July 31, 2023

In Person Meeting
Cornerstone Center, 1111 N Wells

Welcome & Introductions

- Review Question and Answer Guidelines

AGENDA

- **State of Illinois**
 - **9th District Senator Lakesia Collins**
 - **Discussion about the Illinois SafeT act.**
 - SafeT evolved into a law. In 2017 a man waiting 3 years in pretrial for stealing a backpack because he couldn't afford bail for a crime he hadn't been convicted of doing, but in the meantime while waiting for trial he committed suicide. A documentary was made by JayZ that cataloged this man's journey.
 - A majority of those in pretrial holding who couldn't make bail were black and brown persons. If you had money you could get out even if the crime was the same.
 - The "no bail" portion of the law went to the Supreme Court which upheld the SafeT provision for no cash bail.
 - Judge can hold individuals in jail for crimes the Judge believes are violent or crimes that the Judge sees fits to remand an individual for.
 - Need more staff and funding from the State to make sure this part of the law is implemented properly.
- **Cornerstone Children's Learning Center**
 - **Cari Christoff, Executive Director**
 - Takes children 6 weeks to 6 years old.
 - Discuss pandemic effects and experience.
 - There are 6 classrooms. There is an indoor motor room, playground on roof NAEYC accredited, play based learning, child directed.
 - Growfit, healthy, no juice, children get physical exercise and have supportive teachers. Support diversity. And have internal Scholarships for families who may need financial support.
- **Trails School for Early Learning**
 - **Jessica Horak, Director & Founder**
 - Takes children 6 weeks to 6 years old. There is capacity for 75 students now there are 65 students. 25% of students speak another language.
 - Discuss pandemic effects and experience.

- Had a mental health consultant from the States. Work with the whole family, use the Reggio philosophy, Teachers have a lot of professional development.
 - There are grants for financial assistance, CCAP - Illinois Child Care Assistance Program. .
- **YWCA**
 - Angela McNealy, Youth and Educational Coordinator
 - YWCA is a partner with CHA through their Family Works program. YWCA is located at 904 N Cambridge in the Rowhouses.
 - Family mental health and wellness, meals, blessing in a backpack, Little Library, Tutoring and provide safe spaces for youth.
 - There is consistent assessment and data collection for program success.
- **Chicago Police Department**
 - Kameraia Powell, Youth Service Coordinator, Office of Community Policing
 - Discuss the YDAC, the Youth District Advisory Council for the Chicago Police. There is a YDAC in each of the 22 Police Districts. Include Youth voice.
 - Interact with youth through the Police Explorer program, Peer Jury, Cops kids Chess. Sharon Boyd, also runs programs for CPD youth.
 - Area 3, 16-24 year olds can receive pay for participating in certain programs.
- **18th District Asylum Seeker and Migrant Update**
 - Jennifer Allen, RCC Refugee Community Connection
 - Brad Kessler, 18th District Community Council
 - Discuss process of what is happening at the 18th District Police station in regards to arriving migrant families.
 - Migrants sent on buses from Texas to Chicago. Right now people are sleeping at the 18th District station.
 - Inn of Chicago is a shelter in the 18th District.
 - Deputy Mayor for immigration Ms. Ponce De Leon.
 - Across the city there are 12,000 people in 15 shelters.
 - Children are registering in school. Looking to set up English classes.
 - Priority for Shelter is for families then single men.
- **Aug 1 - National Night Out, 401 N Michigan**
 - Buses 5:30 18th District, Seward Park, Marshall Field Gardens, By the Hand Club
- **Aug 4 - Hoops in the Hood, Stanton Park, 5- 8 pm**
- **Aug 10 - Seward PAC meeting, 375 W Elm, 6 pm**
- **Aug 11- Hoops in the Hood, Stanton Park, 5 - 8 pm**
- **Aug 13 - 1 Jar Back to school, 18th District parking lot, 12 - 4 pm**
- **Aug 15 - Stanton PAC, 375 W Elm, 6 pm**
- **Aug 16 - Conversation with the Commander, location TBD, 10 am**
- **Aug 26 - 27th Ward Back to school, Union Park, 1501 W Randolph, 12-4**

- **Aug 28 - NNUP Monthly meeting, 6 pm**