



Near North Unity Program (NNUP)
Membership Meeting NOTES
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Monday, August 26, 2024

In Person Meeting
Cornerstone Center, 1111 N Wells

Welcome & Introductions

- Review Question and Answer Guidelines
- Discussed the success of the 2024 NNUP Jazz Series at Seward Park. Recognized Bernard Hudson, a long time local resident whose band “Nothing but Love” played the last Jazz concert. Also NNUP hosted Thadseus Tukes, and Park and Ride for our Jazz series which happened the third Friday of June, July, and August.

AGENDA

- Chicago Public School
 - Franklin Fine Arts
 - Mariah Wilson, Assistant Principal
 - Principal Wilson is introduced to the community and welcomed. Principal Wilson spoke about her focus on early literacy and as a Mom herself how important this is. She also was an AP on the South side for 11 years before joining Franklin.
- PiggyBack Network
 - Ismael “Ish” El-Amin, Owner
 - Complete Carpool solution for students and families. This is a transportation network of Parents taking other students with their students to and from destinations.
 - Started because Ish was driving a long distance to and from school every day and began to see the same families driving alongside his car. He thought why not carpool instead?
 - There are 480 families signed up, Piggyback is insured, and transport children 6 months to 18 years of age.
 - Started October 2023.
 - Free sign up, Checker background check, try to follow model of CPS but no finger prints.
 - Average 6 miles/\$12 a ride.
 - You meet with the family that will be driving your child. There has to be the child of the driver in the car when a ride is given to another child.
 - Will work with the school to make sure the teacher knows who will be picking up the child at pick up or drop off.
 - Work with School’s LSC, CPS does not endorse outside transportation services because they only endorse their own transportation service.

- **Community Discussion**

- **Youth Shopper Exclusion Policy and Discriminatory Practices at nearby Target, 1200 N Division and how other businesses work to exclude young people from participating in commerce in the community.**
- **Discussed residents' experience with inconsistent bag policies where Target appears to be saying African American need to have larger items (like Toaster) in a bag before leaving the store. A longtime African American neighborhood resident recounts having paid for his items at the regular check out and then security aggressively stopped him as he was leaving the store to check his receipt. He asked why all the other White shoppers who self checked out were leaving the store with no bag and not being stopped to check their receipt after he had even paid at a manned Cashier check out.**
 - **Resident asked to speak to Manager. Takes pictures of people leaving the store without bags and large items.**
 - **Manager explained the “Bag Policy” but did not want to discuss this as a private matter and instead had this conversation in a very public part of Target which garnered interest from many other local residents who saw this interaction.**
 - **Long Term resident engages 18th District CAPS Sargeant who works with residents on many initiatives in the community. Long Term resident is a Beat Facilitator and DAC member.**
 - **CAPS officer and Long Term resident try to engage with Target so they can understand why store stops people and discuss how individuals believe they are being racially profiled.**
 - **Target never responds.**
 - **NNUP discusses how we have reached out since the old Manager Berto left to get Target to speak about community concerns of racial profiling.**
 - **Long Term Resident again shops at Target and purchases a large item and asks for it to be bagged before leaving the store. He is told he doesn't need a bag. He insists and says how he was stopped before, the Target Cashier says there is no “bag policy”. This confusion about policy makes the resident believe he was targeted when he was stopped for potential shoplifting the last time he was at the Store.**
 - **Community discusses how they feel racial profiling is real at Target.**
 - **The Youth Shopper Exclusion Policy at Target is Discussed.**
 - **A test was done sending pairs of White and Black youth shoppers into the Larrabee Target store and the Black pair of students was always stopped from store entry and the White pair of students was always let in.**
 - **Community discusses how Big Box stores don't want to come and speak at our NNUP meetings or be part of the community. They don't join local Chambers of Commerce.**
 - **Where are teens supposed to shop for groceries for the family (especially if single parent or handicap parent), where can young women buy feminine hygiene products on their own, why was this location picked to do this test at?**

- Attendees at the meeting spoke about similar Youth Shopper exclusion policies at Jewel, Mariano's, and the New City Mall.
- Next Community Discussion about Safety issues at Stanton (618 W Scott) and Seward Park (375 W Elm).
 - Michael Torres, the Security Officer from the Park District, spoke to the community.
 - Chris Schenk, 18th District CAPS Sargent was present at the meeting as well.
 - Security for Fieldhouse was discussed .
 - MartyHoward is the person at the Park District who covers this.
 - Security for park open land discussed.
 - No overnight watch.
 - No enforcement rights.
 - Community shared frustration over loud amplified music, unpermitted sale of food, illegal car parking, drug and alcohol use, and late night very large parties at Seward park on 400 W Elm street and the same type of activities happening at Stanton Park by the parking lot of Noble Academy (Evergreen street).
 - Discussed there is CHA, Park, CPS, and City land all next to each other at both Seward and Stanton Park.
 - Elm street side of Seward Park perimeter is unfenced and this is where parties spill over to city parkway, into Elm street cul-de-sac, and nearby the Parkside property.
 - Private alley at Parkway needs to have Holsten manage the removal of illegal cars.
 - 21 service calls to CPD were made about Elm street disruptive activity in a month. Most calls are made anonymously so it is hard for responding CPD officers to connect with the person making the complaint.
 - Park land access closes at 10 pm. Signs are posted.
 - Who is responsible for securing this land?
 - CPD can enforce park rules after hour.
 - Someone needs to sign a complaint.
 - There should be a special CPD Car besides the Park District saying they have a special car.
 - Residents say they don't see any of the special cars.
 - Residents were given contact phone and email for Park District Security.
 - 24/7 number 312-747-2193.
 - Email security@chicagoparkdistrict.com

- **Aug 27 - 18th District Police Council, 303 E Superior, 6 pm**
- **Aug 28 - Bally's Business Partners Event, 1111 N Wells, 10 am - 12 pm**
- **Sept 12 - Seward Park PAC meeting, 375 W Elm, 6 pm**
- **Sept 17 - Stanton Park PAC meeting, via Zoom, 6 pm**
- **Sept 30 - NNUP Monthly Meeting, 1111 N Wells, 6 pm**