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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Countdown to Census Day, April 1, 2010

In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of people within the United States, every ten years a census is taken. The next Census will be taken in 2010. It is important that everyone be counted. The census not only determines who lives within the United States but also establishes which states gain or lose representation in Congress, the amount of state and federal funding communities receive and other decisions about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education and senior services.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes about ten minutes on average to complete and there is only one survey per household.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal

status of respondents in any of its questionnaire and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population the forms will be translated into many different languages and language guides will be provided in 59 different languages.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used solely for statistical purposes only, and information received is strictly confidential.

Achieving a complete count for our community is now in our hands. No one should be left uncounted. So take part in history, participate and let's make this census count and get the resources needed to help our



Stephne-Pettitt-Gaines explains the importance of being counted in the 2010 Census.

community!

For more information, visit the 2010 Census web site at www.census.gov/2010 or

contact Tameeka Christian at Lawndale Christian Development Corporation 773-762-8889 x31.

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After-School Program Keeps 96 Percent of Participating Students on Track to Graduate in At-Risk Chicago Communities



Karen, Tierra, Christian.

CHICAGO (Oct. 26, 2009) — Students who participated in an innovative after-school program last year had a 96 percent graduation rate, well above the 54.3 percent average for Chicago Public Schools (CPS)*. These results were reported in an annual report card issued last week for the Exelon-United Way Stay in School Initiative, which was created by Exelon and the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. The results were announced Oct. 24 at the Field Museum, where the program kicked off its sixth year.

The Stay in School program is focused on improving graduation rates and stemming truancy in three

Chicago communities with some of the highest dropout and truancy rates in the city. According to CPS statistics, dropout rates in the Austin, Bronzeville/Grand Boulevard and Humboldt Park/West Town communities are well above the CPS average.

In addition to yielding higher graduation rates, the Stay in School program promotes higher grades, higher attendance rates and pro-social behaviors. This year's report card findings reinforce that at-risk students can achieve academic success with the right mix of attention and activities. The report card captures data from the 316

students who participated most intensively in Stay in School programs and services during the 2008-2009 school year.

· **96 percent of Stay in School seniors graduated from high school or obtained a GED**, compared to the CPS graduation rate of 54.3 percent, in 2008.

· **86 percent of Stay in School students were promoted to the next grade level.** In 2008, only 59 percent of CPS freshmen were on track for graduation.

· **76 percent of Stay in School students had at least a 90 percent school attendance rate.** Attendance is a major challenge for schools in these communities, with schools experiencing average daily attendance rates as low as 68 percent.

· **74 percent of Stay in School students improved at least one grade in core courses, such as math, science and English.** Almost all students with a B average or better at the end of their freshman year graduate, compared to only a quarter of those with a D average. (Source: *What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools 2007*)

· **71 percent of Stay in School students increased their pro-social behaviors**, such as participation in

out-of-school and leadership activities, involvement in the community and non-violent conflict resolution.

United Way and Exelon launched the Stay in School program in 2004 to serve students in 10 schools with enhanced after-school programs. At that time, statistics showed the citywide dropout rate had reached critical levels, especially for young males of color/belonging to minority groups: 61 percent for African-American males and 49 percent for Latino males. The Stay in School Initiative has served more than 7,500 students, ages 10-20, since its inception. During this school year, another 2,000 students will participate.

The partnership has created a holistic menu of programming that includes tutoring, college readiness, life skills and violence-prevention workshops, parent and family activities and a reward-and-recognition program for achieving students. Exelon also created a companion job skills development workshop series that provides up to eight paid internships each year.

"This program has forever transformed my sense of self-esteem and my commitment to academics," said Tierra Clark, a former Stay in School student from Fredrick

Douglass High School in Austin and now attending Northern Illinois University. "Our mentors from Exelon help us understand what we need to do in order to be better prepared for our futures."

Since 2004, Exelon has contributed \$1.7 million to fund the Exelon-United Way Stay in School. Education is a signature focus of Exelon's corporate citizenship program. The company and its 1,500 employee volunteers believe that educational achievement is the dividing line between economic isolation and opportunity. Education is also a key focus of United Way, which provides the leadership and resources students need to grow into independent adults.

"These report card results indicate that we continue to make an impact in addressing the problem of student dropout rates in these communities," said Steve Solomon, director of corporate relations at Exelon. "We look forward to constantly evolving this partnership and keeping it fresh so that we are delivering the services that are most needed to support the academic success of the students."

"The commitment from the

See Risk page 7

Visit us on our website at www.nlcn.org for more articles, photos, information and more.

North Lawndale Community News
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NLCN

2009 FOCUS

HEALTH & THE ECONOMY

One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of self-care practices.

Self care is personal health maintenance. It is the care taken by individuals towards their own health and well being. Self care includes the actions individuals take in their role as care givers for their children, their families, and others to stay fit and to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Extreme self care means making choices and decisions that honor our soul in everyday living. It means feeding ourselves whole foods, moving our bodies every day, balancing silence with activity, and surrounding ourselves with supportive, like-minded people who are committed to improving or restoring health and uplifting the quality of their lives as well.

More than 75% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom said if they had guidance or support from a professional or peer they would feel far more confident about taking care of their own health. Research shows that supporting self care can improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. Our intention is to support individuals, families, institutions, and communities in their efforts to practice extreme self care. During 2009, the North Lawndale Community News focuses on cost-effective ways you can improve your health by practicing self care.

The Economy has made itself the number one issue with gas prices reaching almost \$5.00 per gallon and having a domino effect on everything else sold, except housing stock which experienced a terrible decline with the high rate of foreclosures. The Chicago metropolitan area reported 5,821 new foreclosure filings in December, a foreclosure rate of one new foreclosure filing for every 499 households — more than twice the national average. That brought the area's fourth quarter foreclosure total to 16,949 and its 2006 foreclosure total to 57,706, according to Realty Trac.

Even transportation on the CTA went on the rise with one day passes increasing by seventy-five cents and monthly passes increased by \$10.00 from \$75.00 to \$85.00. Those are just a few of the increases.

The North Lawndale Community News this year is expanding on last years financial focus to give attention to its broader parent the economy. Saving and making smarter shopping decisions will help stop us losing through wasteful choices. Finding new ways to increase our income is a necessity for many in an area where gentrification is not going to stop.

One of the hardest things to change is behavior. Modifying behavior seems to be easy when it comes to pain. Social pain lack of money has to be extreme for many to change. 2009 should be different for many and of course many will continue toward economic mistakes and financial ruin.

But in today's information society there is no excuse for not making smart choices. Financial literacy alone is not enough. Look what happened to Lehman Brothers and what's happening to many other financial institutions let alone individuals, families, and small businesses.

Solutions come to the internet, books, economic experts, financial counselors and experts, the media and your economical neighbors.

The North Lawndale Community News will tap into resources and share them with you, our reader. So to help you improve your health and your economy keep reading The North Lawndale News. We say yours because some may not modify their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change.. Your input is also welcome If you have some information that is beneficial please submit it. Let's make smarter health and economic moves for life in 2009.

THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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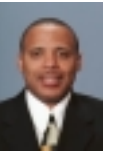
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SHOULD CHARACTER BEHAVIOR & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES BE INCORPORATED IN THE EVERYDAY CURRICULUM?

Tali Bakhit

Yes ma'am, no sir, thank you very much, and no thank you have become old fashioned words of the past as the youth's language shift into a more common type of slang. While addressing their parents and elders with words like loser, what, hun and what evaah, as the mass media continues to feed the youth programs that correspond with these negative type of mannerisms and negative behaviors. The barrage of violence and sex in the media continues to get worse, and even the animated fiction has influenced the youth in such a way that they are implementing every behavior that they come in contact with in everyday "real life" situations. The children that are being raised with manners in their homes have become victims of ostracization. These children are looked at to be outcast, nerds, and the unpopular bunch. What has gone wrong? What has happened to the structure, respect and discipline of the youth, as we shift into a new day and age?

Dr. Johnnie Turner Principle of the Kwame Nkrumah Academy which is located at 901 East 95th street on the South side of Chicago says, "Programs that focus on the personal development

of the youth addresses the issues of hate, and when the youth are taught in the right way and apply it to their lives there is no room for hate or violence." The Kwame Nkrumah Academy focuses on the Southern Virtues of Maat which is influenced by the African philosophies of Balance, Justice, Reciprocity, Truth, Order, Correction and Harmony. Each month the school focuses on one of the named virtues, in which the month of October is "Order." The Kwame Nkrumah Academy is an extension of the Trinity United Church of Christ and it's values have been taught to the children of Trinity for over twenty five years, however, Kwame Nkrumah Academy, which is named after the first President of Ghana has only been in existence for two years. Dr. Turner adds that it is important to teach the child at a very young age in order to build a foundation of good virtues and values.

As many children continue to express their feelings of disconnectedness and the inability to focus on the material that is being presented to them in the regular curriculum, many concerned people of Chicago community organizations continue to propose a better venue by way of personal development and character behavior classes in order to help in the academic progress of our youth. Many of the youth have no idea how to apply much of the material that is offered by way of the regular Chicago Public School curriculum which raises a major concern. In a study done by Fred M. Newman, Anthony S. Bryk, and Jenny K. Nagaoka, in the efforts of improving Chicago Schools, it was found that when teachers organize assignments and instruction which demand higher order thinking, elaborate communication, and in-depth understanding that relates to the everyday lives of the students beyond school, the child is better able to connect with the teachings. Programs like "The Art of Life, which is apart of Bon-Chic Productions offers the youth the re-connection that is needed to succeed academically. This programs offers a curriculum that will help our youth develop life skills, and help them branch out to be the leaders of today and tomorrow. The Art of Life consist of a curriculum that will assist with presentation, attitude, respect, mannerism, entering and exiting, job interviews, community advocacy, proper eating habits, and leadership skills in general. The curriculum is one that is different from the school year curriculum which is found in traditional schooling. This program helps in the effort of preparing the youth for the transition from elementary to middle school, middle school to high school, high school to college, college graduates to young entrepreneurs, and the future leaders of tomorrow. Skills like these and many more are missing from the Chicago Public School curriculum which leaves our youth vulnerable to many of life's situations.

Shameka Williams office manager of Learn Charter School states, "We need to look into the smaller problems and solve them in order to stop the problems from developing into larger problems." Learn Charter school is one of the elementary Charter Schools on the West side of Chicago which has excellent results as it pertains to the interaction of respect from the youth due to parent participation which Ms. Williams says is detrimental to the success of the youth. But with so many babies having babies, and the absence of personal development and character behavior in many homes, communities, and schools many young parents aren't involved in their child's school activities and are unaware of what is proper, appropriate, or needed to help our youth to grow, succeed, have discipline, and fulfill the image of family structure because of the lack of family structure and personal development that was given to them as small children. And with most programs for personal development and character behavior being after school, many children miss out on the benefits, and society never gets the opportunity to see or feel the results.

This is the reason why Namaste Charter School on the

Southwest side of Chicago incorporates personal development and character behavior classes into the everyday curriculum. Along with the regular curriculum of Math, English and Science, Namaste offers the Peaceful People Curriculum which includes Spatial Awareness, Self-Control, Stress Management, Managing Anger, Building Empathy, Pro-Active Interventions, Conflict Resolution, and the Dual-Language Program. Allison Slade, Principle and one of the founders of Namaste Charter School says "As a teacher in the public school system, my partner Katie Graves and I had a vision to break through the many unsolvable barriers that children were faced with in public school, this is where the concept of Namaste Charter School comes from." Namaste Charter School is located at 3737 W. Paulina and caters to children from Kindergarten thru the 6th grade. Classes are focused mainly on the personal development of each child. The focus is to educate the whole child in order to receive quality results. As Namaste is committed to the physical, academic and social well being of the child, Ms. Slade reveals that she can definitely see the difference in the

behaviors of the child that has been taught the curriculum of personal development and character behavior vs. the child that hasn't and invites all who are willing to come out to Namaste Charter School to see the difference, to do so .

While the Chicago Public School System is eagerly searching for new ways to keep the youth engaged, connected, in school and out of trouble, one could only wonder if the Chicago Public School System at large will adopt the concept of educating the whole child by way of incorporating the traditional curriculum with personal development and character behavior classes. What do you think, should the Chicago Public School System incorporate personal development and character behavior classes into the everyday curriculum or should these classes continue to be apart of after school studies, where only a few children have the opportunity to take advantage of the resources? I'll let you be the judge.

For more information on the Consortium on Chicago School Research for the improvement of Chicago Public Schools log onto: <http://search.yahoo.com/>

search?i=1&fr=yfp-t-501&fr2=sp-qrw-orig-top&xargs=0&pstart=1&b=11&xa=M1JXjXkTyOB_CvGo8_BUQ-1,1256174840

For more information on the Kwame Nkrumah Academy call 773-966-1600

For more information on Namaste Charter School go to www.namastecharterschool.org or www.namasteshares.org

For more information on "The Art Of Life" program, go to www.bonchicproductions.com

Tali Bakhit is a visionary journalist, writer, entrepreneur, and owner of her own company Bon-chic Productions. Born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, she knows the struggles that young African American sisters go through on the everyday basis. As a writer for the the North Lawndale Community Newspaper, Tali has made a loyal commitment to give back to the Sisters and prove yes we can all get along and create a since of loyalty. Peace & Light My sisters.

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At The Flicks

David Schultz



MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (1/2)** This musical documentary represents more than just "what might have been" What constantly shows through; is how Michael Jackson loved the creative process as much as performing. Often through this assembled footage from 100 hours of rehearsal footage that was initially for Jackson's personal file. Before his untimely death; now the footage serves

As a culmination of his musical vision as a theatrical spectacle that is now part of his legacy..

This makes "This Is It" the rarest among music documentary. A fitting epitaph for Michael Jackson that showcases the man raw and unperfected in his "comfort zone". As well as a close up look at the process of staging a massive concert tour

The film opens with audition and comments from the dancers who were first fans, before being hired to be the movement extension to Jackson's dance moves, as stated by Jackson's choreographer and the film's director .Kenny Ortega

Then we get the opening for the concert with Michael Jackson emerging from the "Light Man" prop rising underneath the elaborate stage with a stage length jumbo tron video screen before his intro into "Wanna Be Starting Something". It 's Michael 's signature concert opening number heighten by the footage from the London press conference with Michael's proclamation as this tour was his "final curtain call" to his throne of screaming fans.

Occasionally, Ortega uses the split screen effect ala "Woodstock" that he uses sparingly.

Ortega wisely lets the movie stand on its own through its subject. Showing Michael as a "hands on" artist working, perfecting and choreographing his 11 dancers with moves that would be multiply thousands time on a green screen for an army-like effect on the stage screen.

Even through the rehearsal footage, there are many noteworthy highlights that are unique, amusing and revealing to watch. Throughout the film, there's Michael rehearsing any of his many hits. And we can't help but notice how Michael feels the music with his entire body.

Not only is it pure genius at work. We can also feel the same vibe when Michael is enjoying himself in a bit of playful improvisation on one of his favorite tunes, "Human Nature". Even more so when Michael feels a moment that he can't hold back or can't get others to help him conserve his energy during rehearsal that makes the dancers and crew as like screaming fans on "Billie Jean"

Of course, knowing what we now know about Jackson's drug dependency, we might be looking for clues, but we don't see any here.

A real treat were the new music video interpretations for "Smooth Criminal" with Michael being green screened along side Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson and a sexy Rita Hayworth singing from "Gilda" and a new graveyard scene for "Thriller" in 3D. It's incredible and fascinating stuff to see unfold before our eyes.

There's even a charming scene with Michael in a duet with a female singer who tries to stay professional enough to sing her part. While she has her difficulty concentrating over Michael's flirty gestures in his vocal performance.

Sometimes I wonder how much luck was really involved that the rehearsals were filmed. But I know one thing , regardless if you were a fan or not. There is no denying the multi talents of this gifted performer and the appreciation for his passion that made him one of a kind, who always knew what he was doing and why – to stress the lasting power of music in performance and in life.

PG; 111min. A Columbia Pictures Release – Presented in limited two week engagement at selected theaters


AMELIA (*)** As movie biographies go, "Amelia", based on the life, romances and aerial exploits of the nation's first female aviator, Amelia Earhart who eventually flies solo across the Atlantic. "Amelia" is a movie that has the look of prestige under Mira Nair's direction.

But somehow the film doesn't register enough depth beyond Hilary Swank's dead ringer performance. Because famed India director Mira Nair in her first major Hollywood financed movie boldly doesn't projected her subject by Hollywood's usual bio film standards. Nair avoids the clichés of making this historic figure "larger than life" Her demeanor is intentionally ordinary who grows from her aerial desires and life experiences

Drawn from two different book sources, "Amelia" stills feels like it only scratches the surface and fingers through her winged exploits. The film opens briefly to barely expose a glimpse into her Kansas childhood that is only mention to show her initial "wonder lust" for flying.

Then the film shifts through varied key dates and events from 1927 with Earhart's initial meeting with George Putnam (Richard Gere), a publicity hound book publishing magnate who made Charles Limburgh into a


See Flicks page 6



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Date	Class
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8/29	Word 2003 Basic To Advance
9/5	Excel 2003 Basic To Advance
9/12	PowerPoint 2003 Basic To Advance
9/19	Access 2003 Basic to Advance
9/26	Computer Fundamentals Windows Vista
10/3	Word 2007 Basic To Advance
10/10	Excel 2007 Basic To Advance
10/17	PowerPoint 2007 Basic To Advance
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10/31	Word 2003 Basic To Advance
11/7	Word 2007 Basic To Advance
11/14	Excel 2003 Basic To Advance
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Flicks from page 4

bestseller author but considered a "bore" as a person.

Now Putnam hopes to have the same success by channeling Amelia's career from being just a passenger on her first flight across the Atlantic to ultimately achieving her goal to fly solo there. And in between, Putnam sets up Amelia to make varied product endorsements that helps financially back her experimental air trips.

As Putnam, Richard Gere following his strong performance in 2007's "The Hoax", is allowed to ease back and apply his romantic finesse on Amelia that returns Gere to a familiar charming mode between "Pretty Woman" and "The Road to Rodanthe"

George tries to warn Amelia not to set her goals too high. Words that are not emphasize

as a precursor to Amelia's fateful 1937 disappearance over the Pacific Ocean. But enough to fuels Amelia's plucky spirit and break the gender barrier that gives her stardom beyond the initial "Lady Lindy" label

But George Putnam almost twice Amelia's age finds she might be losing interest to a more youthful suitor, Gene Vidal, a pilot and aeronautics professor (Ewan McGregor) and the father to a very young (and future novelist)Gore Vidal (William Cuddy) whose quite smitten with Amelia as a potential mother)

Putnam had already fallen in love with his "meal ticket". When he spots the intrusion from seeing Amelia's initial meeting with Gene at a social party.

It's enough to make George rush to marry Amelia who carried a torch while engaging in secret rendezvous meetings with Gene. Amelia helps Gene head President Roosevelt's aviation department. Until George douses Amelia's flame when he's forced to admit that an upcoming business trip that would leave Gene at their home with his wife would be unacceptable.

"Amelia" is always been an interesting and fascinating subject. Even though this is not the definitive movie on her life. I wanted more than I got. Perhaps too conventional, but I still felt the intrigue and fascination that director Mira Nair managed to make the most out of in areas the script didn't. While Hilary Swank levels a solid performance that carries the spirit and soars.

PG; 111min. A Fox Searchlight Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters

ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz



Denzel Washington in *The Taking of Pelham 123*



Michelle Pfeiffer and Rupert Friend in *Cheri*

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 (1/2)**
An adequate, updated remake, but not suspenseful enough nor does it have a wry sense of humor as in the superior 1974 Walter Matthau-Robert Shaw version. Denzel Washington plays a demoted MTA officer whose been reassigned as a train dispatcher while under investigation, who finds himself being forced to deal with subway motor car and its passenger held hostage by John Travolta in a gleeful villainy turn for a \$10 million ransom from the NY mayor (well played by James Gandolfini)

The script has been reworked to reflect the hi-tech influences and alters the participation midway of Luis Guzman in the Martin Balsam role as the disgruntled ex MTA employee whose sacrifice within the drama. In order to insure the eventual confrontation between Travolta and Washington fort what becomes not-so-smooth thrill ride for the viewer. R; 108min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Nov. 3

CHERI ()** A lackluster love story with

some interesting elements about an ill fated affair between a famed professional beauty (Michelle Pfeiffer) thinking about retirement is approached by her archrival (Kathy Bates) to teach her man-child son (Rupert Friend) about women that leads into a scandal for being with a man half her age in the turn of the 20th century and glitzy Belle Époque France that eventually leads to a clash over a woman fearing her aging by associating her needs through a teen who refuses to be mature and responsible. R 102 min. Miramax Films Home Video

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Aldermen:

I am a resident of North Lawndale, who is very concerned about the state of the City's finances. In fact, the more I read about our city's finances the more concerned I become. I respectfully request that you work with the Mayor and the Office of Budget and Management to craft an alternative budget that allows the City to live within its means, and is more in line with generally accepted accounting principles. If I recall correctly, Chicago's general operating budget was in the \$3 billion range in 1991. Adjusting for inflation, one would expect Chicago's budget to be in the \$4.7 - \$5 billion range today for the same level of services we had in 1991. The 2009 budget is \$5.9 billion, and the proposed 2010 budget is \$6.1 billion—not including expenditures from special funds like TIFs and the capital budget. On top of that, approximately 40% of the City's land mass is "TIF'd". Recent budgets as well as the 2010 budget indicate plans to bring on 15-16 TIFs per year. At this rate, the entire city could be "TIF'd" by 2025, which would further strain the system.

I was very disturbed to learn that the City intends to use all but about \$750 million of its \$3 billion rainy day fund on current expenses. This includes the proposed use of \$1.4 million to be used for programs to assist the homeless. The City would also use proceeds from the sale of the parking meters to provide tax relief to homeowners. One of your colleagues is quoted in one of the newspapers as characterizing the current budget proposal as mortgaging the City's future. A more accurate description would be "fire sale".

I agree that the City should do something to assist the homeless. I also agree that the City should do something to provide tax relief to homeowners. In fact, it's a shame that the lowest income communities in the City have to bear the largest brunt of the City's property tax increase—for at least the second consecutive year. However, I don't agree that using proceeds from the sale of parking meters and other revenue generating assets is the way to finance these programs. There should be fundamental changes made to the City's taxing, financing and budget structure.

Giving proceeds from the sale of parking meters to the homeless and homeowners is a one time "fix", and does not make the decision to sell the parking meters under duress any wiser than it was when it was originally made. It only serves to make taxpayers and the homeless accomplices after the fact, and gives the impression that the City is trying to provide political cover, or shall I say "recovery", from the fallout of a very unpopular decision. In spite of the fact that citizens continue to express outrage over the parking meter debacle, there are reports that the City is still considering options to sell other revenue generating assets.

Perhaps you should consider approaching the Chicago 2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods, which was created to provide assistance to communities that would have been impacted by the Olympics. Who knows? As they liquidate their assets, perhaps they might consider making a donation to some of the City's delegate agencies that serve the homeless.

I think there needs to be a serious INDEPENDENT study done to identify the driving factors for the burgeoning growth of the costs for the administration of City services, determine the cost and benefits, prioritize spending, and make difficult choices.

In the meantime, there should be a moratorium on the creation of new TIFs and the sale of revenue generating assets. There ain't no more blood left in the turnip.

Sincerely, Valerie F. Leonard Community Development Consultant

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Risk from page 5

volunteer mentors at Exelon has provided the Stay in School students with positive role models who stick with them over time," said CJ Jones, director of outreach and diversity for United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. "This partnership is a prime example of corporate leadership reaching out to community experts for meaningful change."

For the full Stay in School Initiative report card, visit [Exelon's Web site](http://www.uw-mc.org/2009/stay-in-school-initiative-report) or United Way's web site at <http://www.uw-mc.org/2009/stay-in-school-initiative-report>.

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