

THE PARTY LINE

United Working Families Newsletter | Winter '22

Remembering the 2012
Woodlawn Clinic Occupation

PAGES 6 & 7

UWF's 2022 Primary
Victories

PAGES 4 & 5

Interview: Alderpeople
reflect on last 10 years

PAGES 12 - 15



2012-2022

Ten years of
movement-building



THE PARTY LINE

The Party Line is published by United Working Families, an independent political organization by and for the 99%. The Party Line is published twice a year with content from UWF committee members.

Let us know what you think, or submit a piece of your own: info@unitedworkingfamilies.org

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Letter from the Executive Director

What the Future Holds

Dear Member,

The theme of this issue of *The Party Line* is a reflection on the last ten years of movement-building. You'll hear from Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle on the 2012 Woodlawn clinic occupation and a reflection from Kennedy Bartley on how this fight lives on in the campaign for Treatment Not Trauma (pages 6-8). You'll hear from elected officials like Aids. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and Jeanette Taylor on what they were doing ten years ago, and where they hope our push for governing power will lead us in 2032 (pages 11-13).

Our September Membership Convention, "Towards Governing Power," also spoke to this unique moment in the history of our organization. On pages 9-10, you can read more about the changes made to our party platform, as well as our first-ever Mayoral endorsement taken up by a full vote of members at the Convention. I encourage you to read both the platform and the resolution calling on member Brandon Johnson to run for Mayor, and to reach out to Organizing Director Rocío García about getting involved with our next steps.

Lastly, at the Convention I made the announcement that I will be stepping down as Executive Director after the 2023 municipal elections. Ten years ago, I was working as a youth organizer and increasingly becoming politicized by the struggles that Matt, Alex, Jeanette, and Carlos describe. When we talk about feeling the absence of governing power, those are the moments that I think about: feeling so powerless to even defend against what the ruling class was doing to Chicago's poor and working-class Black and brown residents, much less to go on offense.

I don't feel that way anymore. Last year, for the first time since the city mental health clinics were closed, the clinics received an increase in staff through our work on Treatment Not Trauma. Our members in Springfield have passed legislation for pandemic rent relief, the restoration of collective bargaining rights, an elected school board, an end to money bond, and the preservation of abortion rights. In November, we sent longtime UWF member and leader Delia Ramirez to Congress (page 4).

There is still so far to go, but for the first time, going on offense feels within reach. I'm honored to have played a role in that shift, and I have the greatest confidence in you, our members, to lead us through that work in the years to come.

In solidarity,
Emma Tai



2022 Fellows Sandra Puebla and Israel Flores hosted a house party that raised over \$1,500 from their personal networks. Photo credit: Ryan Kelleher.

A Ten-Year Project for Governing Power

By Sandra Puebla

June 28th was a night where progressives and socialists in Chicago witnessed the fruits of their labor after months of hard work. On election night, 13 of the 14 UWF-endorsed candidates won their elections. State Representative Delia Ramirez beat well-funded corporate neoliberal candidate, Alderman Gilbert Villegas, in the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress. Anthony Joel Quezada defeated incumbent Cook County Commissioner Luis Arroyo Jr. in a five-way race, ending the corrupt Arroyo family dynasty. And immigrant justice organizer Lilian Jiménez won the race for the open seat created by Rep. Ramirez's campaign for Congress.

These campaigns worked tirelessly, but the work began way before 2022. For the past ten years, Chicago's progressives

have slowly built political power. After the teachers' strike in 2012, we saw a rise in progressive union power. In 2014, progressive candidates Will Guzzardi and Jay Travis challenged corporate Democrats in primaries in statehouse primaries. In 2015, the 35th Ward elected Carlos Rosa, its first democratic socialist Alderperson in almost 100 years. 2015 also saw a rise in Independent Political Organizations such as United Neighbors of the 35th ward, 33rd ward IPO, Grassroots Illinois Action Humboldt Park Area, People United for Action, and Greater Austin IPO. By 2019, we had five progressive IPOs and 10 UWF alderpersons.

In 2020, the COVID pandemic sharpened the issues our communities had been facing for years and brought

us together in new ways. The lack of a government response to the public health, unemployment, and housing crises at the onset of COVID led UWF to create the Right to Recovery campaign, uniting organizations, unions, and individuals to push for statewide rent cancellation and a city budget that worked for the many, not the few. We showed that being a UWF elected official meant more than an endorsement; it meant a commitment to

I have witnessed people join our movement for a candidate, but stay to continue to build around the issues important to them.



UWF member Enrique Mendoza went from volunteering for our Northwest Side slate to becoming field director for UWF-endorsed Julia Ramirez in the 12th Ward. Photo credit: Enrique Mendoza.

working alongside communities for the betterment of the city as a whole.

The 2022 primary elections presented an opportunity for us to set our sights on

higher offices. On the northwest side, we were confident that our people were ready for elected officials who center the needs of poor and working people, NOT wealthy corporations. Because of the growth of our movement and training opportunities like the 2021 UWF Elections Academy, we had IPO and UWF members who were ready to take on campaign manager, field director and fundraising roles on our slate campaigns. This strategy came partly out of necessity (we don't have the millions of dollars at hand our opponents have) but also out of our knowledge of what works. People like us—who have community knowledge, deep roots and a real stake in the outcome of elections—are more valuable than highly-paid professional consultants.

As the chair of UN35, I have witnessed people join our movement for a candidate, but stay to continue to build around the issues important to them. In the 35th Ward, neighbors came together to support Carlos Rosa for Alderman, but stayed to build our mighty IPO that has fought for huge projects such as the 100-unit, 100% affordable housing development next to the Logan Square Blue Line. When right-wing extremists have attacked our community, neighbors organized to protect each other. Community power and electoral power reinforce and drive each other, creating lasting change.

It's exciting to think where we will be ten years from now. Will we have a movement Mayor and a majority on the city council? Will we have rent control and will we be fully funding after school programs in our neighborhood schools? I believe we can win all this and more. It will take all of us to make it happen.

SANDRA PUEBLA is the chair of United Neighbors of the 35th Ward and a 2022 graduate of the UWF Movement Leader Fellowship.

U.S. CONGRESS



Delia Ramirez
3rd IL Congressional District

ASSESSOR



Fritz Kaegi
Cook County Assessor (Incumbent)

STATE SENATE



Robert Peters
13th Senate District (Incumbent)



Celina Villanueva
12th Senate District (Incumbent)



Cristina Pacione-Zayas
20th Senate District (Incumbent)

2022 Primary Victories



COOK COUNTY BOARD



Brandon Johnson
1st District Cook County Commissioner
(Incumbent)



Alma Anaya
7th District Cook County Commissioner
(Incumbent)



Anthony Joel Quezada
8th District Cook County Commissioner

STATE HOUSE



Theresa Mah
2nd House District (Incumbent)



Lakesia Collins
9th House District (Incumbent)



Lilian Jiménez
4th House District



Will Guzzardi
39th House District (Incumbent)



Norma Hernandez
77th House District

The 2012 Woodlawn Clinic Occupation



By Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle

As the sun emerged over the horizon on April 12, 2012, numerous sleepless members of Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) and other coalition partners in the Mental Health Movement knew that this day would go down in history.

Some of those rays landed on a STOP member who had climbed the roof of the mental health clinic at 63rd and Woodlawn. The clinic was slated to close that day as part of “Mayor 1%” Rahm Emanuel’s plan to close half the city’s public mental health clinics, almost entirely located in Black and brown communities.

We carefully positioned two banners, one reading “Stop Stealing Our Healing – Save our Mental Health Clinics” and the other with a list of demands, at the edge of the roof. Later that day, the leaders of the Mental Health Movement would host a “party” at the Woodlawn clinic, ostensibly to celebrate its many decades of service. But shortly after the party started, 23 Mental Health

Movement members began setting up barricades, unfurling banners, and giving testimony to the outside world about their plan to occupy the space until the Mayor reversed course.

The organizers were not new to the fight for their clinics. For years, the people who received and provided services had struggled alongside the surrounding communities to defend the clinics against two attempts by Mayor Daley to close them. The recipe of uniting unionized workers and people directly affected by the attempted cuts and closures along with their communities was a powerful one, but Rahm Emanuel and his donors had set out to close the clinics once and for all—balancing the budget on the backs of people who they thought were powerless, and striking a blow to public sector workers and their union in the process.

Mayor Emanuel responded to our occupation with heavily armed police who cut through the

barricades and arrested all of the protesters. For a moment, it seemed all was lost. But as the sun rose again the next day, it poured over tents that popped up on the empty lot across from the clinic. For months, thousands of people would come out to show support at two different encampments that popped up outside the closed clinics in Woodlawn and Logan Square. At the NATO summit that year, tens of thousands of people marched behind the Mental Health Movement members who occupied the clinic that day to the home of Mayor 1% chanting “healthcare not warfare.”

Yes, the clinics did close. It was tragic. We lost people like Helen Morley—who famously told the Mayor to his face, “if you close my clinic I will die”—and Jeanette Hanson, who was found dead in her apartment when she couldn’t find treatment to deal with a flare up in her symptoms. The remaining clinics have held on by a string as the city continues to cut and privatize mental healthcare.

But all was not lost. Since that day in April, mental health has gone from the margins to the center

of political discourse in Chicago. Not only is the Mental Health Movement still alive and fighting for the re-opening of the clinics, but the issue has become a central one in every city election since. It is part of what fueled the candidacies of working class-heroes like Alderwoman Rossana Rodríguez, Alderman Carlos Rosa, Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor, and many more. Black Lives Matter activists, particularly in the wake of the police killing of Betty Jones during a police response to a mental health crisis, have connected the struggle for mental health services to the struggle to stop police violence. Visionary legislation like Alderwoman Rossana Rodríguez’s Treatment not Trauma ordinance roots the fight for a non-police crisis response firmly within the struggle to re-open and strengthen Chicago public mental health clinics.

The call to re-open the clinics and make mental health services public—because mental health is as important as schools, parks and water and should not be left to the private sector—is stronger than ever. Our momentary losses are never permanent, not as long as we continue to organize and build power.

MATT GINSBERG-JAECKLE is a co-founder of STOP and the Mental Health Movement and one of the organizers who was arrested at the Woodlawn Clinic occupation in 2012. He currently organizes with 50th Ward United Working Families.



Protestors with the Mental Health Movement fight to keep the Woodlawn mental clinic health open. Photos courtesy of Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle.

Voters say YES to life-affirming responses to mental health crises

By Kennedy Bartley

On November 8, voters from the Southside to the Northwest side of Chicago delivered an overwhelming YES to the November referendum question: “Shall the City of Chicago reopen all of the closed Chicago Department of Public Health mental health centers in support of a city-wide crisis response program that dispatches mental health professionals and an EMT to mental health emergency calls instead of armed police,” a program known as Treatment Not Trauma.

Treatment Not Trauma is a legislative expression of a set of demands from the ground, a demand carried by a grassroots coalition of independent political organizations, community organizations, organized labor, and longtime residents who have fought to preserve mental health care as a right to every person in our city.

Tuesday’s referendum to reopen the 14 public mental health centers closed between both the Daley and Emanuel administrations, to support a city-wide non-police response program to mental health emergency calls, was on the ballot in the 6th and 20th wards—both majority Black—and the 33rd ward, a diverse community with a significant immigrant population. Across the three wards, 97% of the electorate said yes.

This was a coalition effort helmed by STOP, Defund CPD, and 33rd Ward Working Families. At the dawn of the upcoming municipal election, neighbors across the city have made it clear that public safety and alternatives to the police is a marquee concern. Our demands are setting the agenda for progressivism. Any candidate who is serious about winning must take these demands seriously as well.

KENNEDY BARTLEY is the Chair of the UWF Policy Committee.



Organizers turn in thousands of petitions from neighbors in wards 6, 20, and 33 in order to get Treatment Not Trauma on the ballot. Photo courtesy of Kennedy Bartley.

At the 2022 Convention,

members debated, amended, and voted on the following decisions for our party:

- * Updating our bylaws to better reflect and contain our growth. Read the updated bylaws here: bit.ly/uwf-bylaws
- * Updating and amending our party platform (bit.ly/uwf-platform).
- * Passing a resolution endorsing UWF member Brandon Johnson for Mayor of Chicago (bit.ly/brandon-endorsement).

The UWF Party Committee is urged to give support to endorsed candidates based on their commitment to running as a unified, top-to-bottom slate and a common vision of solidarity and justice.



(Above) Alexis Florence and Jackson Potter preside over the amendments to the UWF platform.

(Right) Margaret Heywood-Smith speaks about how a lack of mental healthcare services has impacted her and her family members.



UWF 2022 Convention ***Towards Governing Power***

(Below) WFP Director Maurice Mitchell interviews Erica Bland-Durosini, Ald. Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez, and Andrea Ortiz at the opening plenary on governing power.



Photo credits: Ray Rivera.

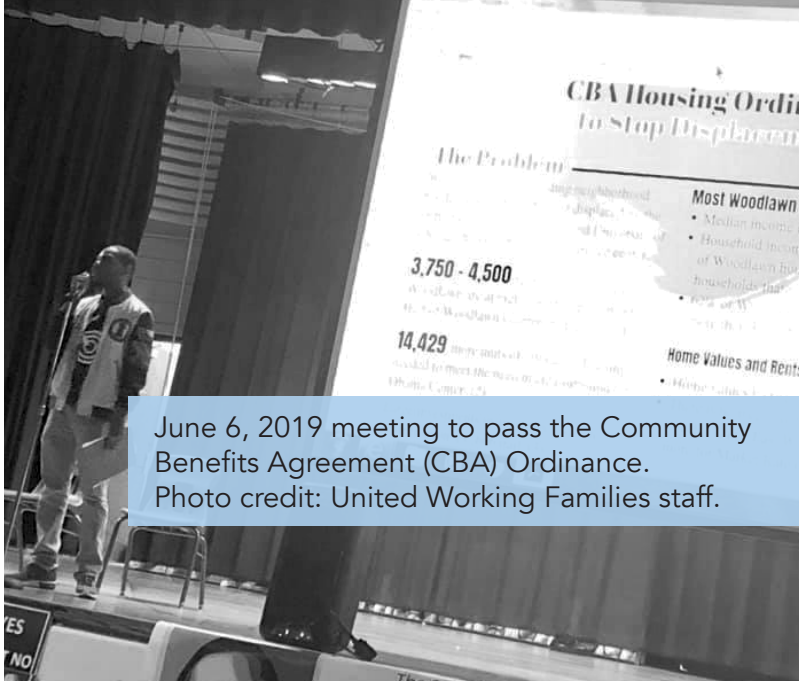
Thank you

**to all the volunteers and planning teams
that made the Convention possible.**

Nashiha Alam
Jessica Angus
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Minnie Bandy
Ken Barrios
Daniel Burke
Nick Boyle
Caitlin Brady
Kash Brantley
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Zoe Chan
Andy Chen
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Tawanna Ellison
Jessica Estrada
Rami Faraj
Carlos Fernandez
Isa Figueroa
Alexis Florence
Israel Flores
Crystal Gardner
Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle
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Niki Heer
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Coston Plummer
Jackson Potter
Sandra Puebla
Lupe Rivera
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Troy Swanson
Casey Sweeney
Amika "Tree" Tendaji
Lori Torres
Amanda Varela
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David Wilson
Sara Zaleta
Nick Zettel
Richard Zili





June 6, 2019 meeting to pass the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) Ordinance. Photo credit: United Working Families staff.

Where we've come from, where we're going

The Party Line interviews Ald. Jeanette B. Taylor and Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa on ten years of movement-building.



Ald. Jeanette B. Taylor

Sarah Hurd, *The Party Line* (SH): What were you up to in 2012?

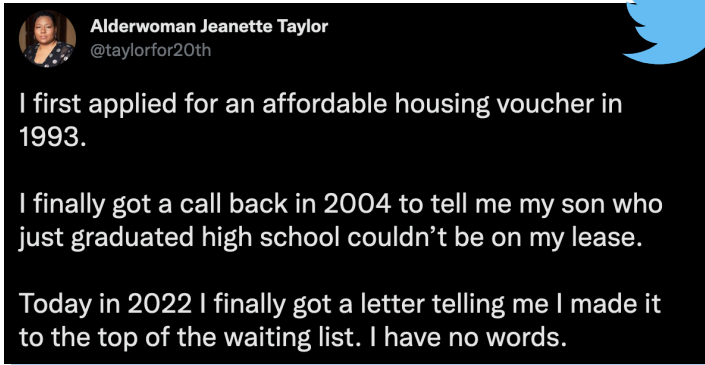
Alderwoman Jeanette B. Taylor (JT): I used to organize at Mollison [Elementary School] when I was a teen mother on the PTA. I

didn't even call it organizing, it was "getting people together to get what we needed for the young people at the school." I would go to meetings and I would go off, like "y'all are lying about what you're doing for the students and I know it because I'm there everyday." My principal used to get calls saying, "don't send her to the meeting because that's not what we want to hear."

In 2015, I started thinking about, "What if I got in there and said all the things that I've been thinking and that I've heard? What if I start to tell people what actually goes on in City Council and City Hall?" Elected officials make \$105,000 a year. They get good health insurance and good dental to mistreat the people they are paid to represent.

SH: You went viral for your tweet about how you got off the CHA waiting list 29 years after you first applied. How does that compare to getting attention for the struggles to keep Dyett and Mollison open?

JT: Back then I wasn't an elected official. I am now. I've got the stage and people want to hear what I have to say, and I don't say what everybody else says. People in the community tell those stories all the time but nobody



believes it because they don't have the same stage I have.

SH: A lot of the old guard aldermen are retiring this year. Why?

JT: There is no hiding place. Everything is online so if you take a bad vote against folks, it's online. If you say something, it gets tweeted.

And what we've been dealing with is a dictatorship—the mayor says one thing and everybody else falls in line. But I shouldn't be making development decisions without community input. I should be consulting the people who pay their taxes. Even the three-year-old baby who goes in to buy a bag of chips pays taxes. If you live in this city, you should have a right to decide how those tax dollars are spent.

I have a constituent night every Thursday. From 2 to 7 every Thursday, I'm here and people can talk to me without an appointment. That's my commitment to my community, to say "I want to hear what your complaints are but I also want to help you organize and fix them." You can't imagine the people who don't live in my ward who come to me for help, because they can't get in touch with their own alderman. I don't step on people's toes, but if there is something I can help them with, with CDOT or streets or lights, I just do. Aldermen have been this club of folks who think that they're untouchable. They advocate in the interest of people

who have money and they don't listen to the people who are struggling. I am a woman who has struggled my whole life. I know how it feels to be a voiceless Black mother and I never want anybody in my community to feel that way.

Some days I'm like "Lord, is this what I'm still supposed to be doing?" Then I go to one of these events and someone says "you got my lights fixed" or "you got the water turned back on." It lets me know that I'm supposed to be here.

Ald. Taylor's tweet on May 31, 2022 documenting her name getting off the CHA waiting list. Photo credit: Ald. Jeanette Taylor.



Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa

SH: Tell me about when you were first getting politicized.

CR: I started out wanting to be someone who would be effective at creating change. I always felt like we should expect more from

our elected officials. I would go down to Springfield with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and would meet with so many elected officials, who on paper said that they were very liberal. But when we needed them to stand with us, it was like pulling teeth on very basic things to protect immigrant rights. I felt like, "We need someone who's been doing the work alongside movements to be in the halls of government as an elected official."

SH: And when did the idea for a 100% affordable housing development first come up?

CR: Conversations around redeveloping this city-owned parking lot started in 2014, and really picked up after my election [in 2015]. I ran on a commitment to make sure that that lot was redeveloped as 100% affordable housing.

The area surrounding the Logan Square Blue Line stop has seen a lot of displacement, a lot of rising rents. We saw a lot of working-class Latino residents pushed out by those rising rents, and our community said it was important to make sure that we were using every tool that we had to keep people in their homes and to keep our neighborhood diverse and accessible.

Now, with the Lucy Gonzalez Parsons apartments, we have accomplished some of that. It is 100 units of 100% affordable housing. We had over 700 people apply for these units, which really shows the need that existed. That's why we fought as a community for years to make sure this lot next to the Logan Square Blue Line Stop became affordable housing.



Ald. Ramirez-Rosa stands with members of United Neighbors of the 35th Ward in front of the Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments. Photo Credit: Picture Day - Hannah Bourne.

SH: What kind of organizing was needed to make that happen?

CR: United Neighbors of the 35th Ward (UN35) was started after my 2015 election. The idea was to hold me accountable and make sure that I was constantly listening to the people in my community, but it was also going to make sure they were going to have my back if I did that. They were going to make sure the 35th ward continued to elect and re-elect progressive candidates that stood with our movements.

One of the first campaigns that we took on was building community support for the 100% affordable housing development.

I was in City Hall pushing the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to redevelop this site, and then UN35 alongside community organizations like LSNA and Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance were out in the streets rallying, protesting, knocking doors, and sending letters to the commissioner of DPD. That one-two punch made sure that I was doing what I needed to do as a council member while we were organizing the community to back up that demand and put external pressure on the powers that be.

SH: How are we going to get the amount of affordable housing we need in Chicago, if this took six years to just get those 100 units?

CR: There are really great examples of “municipalism” all across the globe—the notion that the local level of government should be meeting people’s needs and that certain vital necessities of life are owned collectively by the municipality.

In the long term, we need to look toward social housing, where the city itself is actually

developing affordable housing and taking the money from collecting rents to then invest in even more affordable housing. That’s a successful model that we’ve seen in places like Prague and Singapore.

In the short term, we need to use every single opportunity we have to build more affordable housing. We are looking to pass ordinances to protect our naturally occurring affordable housing, our two- to four-flats, which are some of the most affordable options that exist in our neighborhood. There are so many affordable housing developments now across the city, and so many of them have been built in the wards of UWF alders who are championing these types of developments, and who are leading on the fight to make sure we’re addressing displacement and keeping people in their homes.

We have an opportunity to elect even more UWF alders, but the key thing is that we can’t just send them in there alone. We need to have bases of people in every single ward working every single day to keep them accountable, to have their back when they pick the right fights at City Hall, and then to also be part of that co-governance to help make those tough decisions. “Progressive” isn’t just a set of policies, it’s an approach to governance that says, we don’t need rich and powerful people dictating to us what’s going to happen in our communities. We collectively and democratically can decide what our future should look like.

ALDERWOMAN JEANETTE B. TAYLOR represents the 20th Ward on Chicago’s south side.

ALDERMAN CARLOS RAMIREZ-ROSA represents the 35th Ward on Chicago’s northwest side.

SARAH HURD is the UWF Communications Specialist.

New Generation of Progressives Poised to Take Over City Hall, Backed by a Multiracial, Working Class, City-Wide Coalition

by Willa Voss

Over the past four years, Chicagoans already experiencing gutted public health centers, rising housing costs, and defunded public education faced a devastating global pandemic that laid bare the lines of inequality. As people demanded relief, the Mayor and her allies in City Council gave millions of federal COVID dollars to the police, broke promises to address homelessness through Bring Chicago Home, and ignored the cries to reopen our public mental health clinics through Treatment Not Trauma.

This 2023 election presents an historic opportunity to shift power in City Hall and put it back in the hands of the people. After a progressive sweep in the 2022 midterms, UWF will build on that success in the Chicago municipal elections. In addition to endorsing Brandon Johnson for Mayor, the UWF Party Committee has endorsed 19 aldermanic incumbents and challengers who are ready to fight for the many. Election day is February 28, 2023.



The Political Organizing Program support the 2023 UWF slate. Photos courtesy of Paul Goyette and UWF staff.

Our initial set of endorsements is as follows:

- Commissioner Brandon Johnson for Mayor
- Ald. Daniel La Spata (1)
- Khari Humphries (4)
- Desmon Yancy (5)
- William Hall (6)
- Cleopatra Draper (9)
- Oscar Sanchez (10)
- Julia Ramirez (12)
- Vicko Alvarez (15)
- Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20)
- Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25)
- Jessie Fuentes (26)
- Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33)
- Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35)
- Lori Torres Whitt (36)
- Denali Dasgupta (39)
- Angela Clay (46)
- Ald. Matt Martin (47)
- Ald. Maria Hadden (49)
- Mueze Bawany (50)

A note on process: The UWF questionnaire was made available to any candidate nominated by a member of the UWF Party Committee. All candidates who completed a questionnaire were interviewed by members of the Party Committee, Elections Committee, and members who live in their district. The Party Committee votes on all endorsement recommendations; a 2/3 majority is required to pass. Party Committee delegate contact information and organizational bylaws are available on the UWF website.

WILLA VOSS is the acting Political Director of United Working Families.

Ten Years of Fighting for Education Justice and the Common Good

By Alex Han



On the afternoon of Friday, February 17th, 2012, dozens of parents and allies walked into Brian Piccolo Elementary School in West Humboldt Park. Over the previous weeks, a plan had been devised in quiet meetings around the neighborhood, and earlier that day supplies had been brought in.

Piccolo was one of ten schools, all in Black and brown neighborhoods, slated to be “turned around” in a Board of Education vote on February 22nd—the Chicago corporate class’s Orwellian new-speak for the wholesale firing of a school’s staff (from principal to custodian) and handover of the school to a private operator. This private operator, the Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL), had been deeply intertwined with Chicago’s donor class, political machine and

“‘Turned around’ [is] the Chicago corporate class’s Orwellian new-speak for the wholesale firing of a school’s staff and hand-over of the school to a private operator.”

corporate education reform since its founding by a Chicago venture capitalist in 2001.

In addition to the ten “turnarounds”, seven CPS schools were on the docket on February 22nd for outright closure, all serving mostly Black students and all located on Chicago’s south and west sides. Among these was Dyett High School, located on the north end of Washington Park.

The occupation of Piccolo Elementary was announced in a press conference the early evening of February 17th. Supporters set up camp outside and fifteen parents from



Piccolo and nearby Pablo Casals Elementary along with allies from Blocks Together and other members of the Grassroots Education Movement stayed inside, with supplies for days if necessary. Over fifty supporters stayed through the night, to help protect the occupation from waves of police tactical teams sent to attempt to remove the occupation.

After a night and morning of negotiation with CPS leadership, at 3:25pm on Saturday February 18th the occupiers announced a temporary victory. CPS board member Jesse Ruiz met with the group inside the school, who ended their occupation with a commitment that parents from Piccolo and nearby Pablo Casals Elementary would win a meeting with the rest of the board.

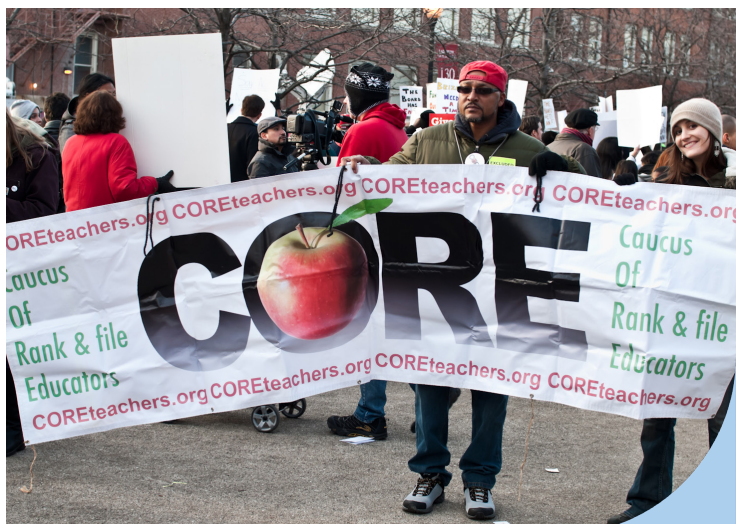
On the 20th, over 500 protestors, mostly students from Bronzeville to Brighton Park to Albany Park and Logan Square, staged a



silent march on Mayor Emanuel's house. These were advancements in tactics and coalitions honed over the previous ten years, with one meaningful difference—they had the support of the full power of the Chicago Teachers Union, now led by the newly-elected Caucus of Rank and File Educators.

It's always hard to define victories, and even harder considering that in response to the organizing and powerbuilding of CTU and GEM groups, Mayor Emanuel and Chicago Public Schools punished our communities by closing 50 schools in 2012 and 2013. But our movement persevered. We kept organizing, and we kept building power. Now, we've seen critical advances around these issues. Moratoriums on school closings. An end to "school turn-arounds" by AUSL. The re-opening, after a 34-day hunger strike led by the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization with critical support from other GEM groups, of Dyett High School. In the coming years, an elected school board. These advances came at an enormous cost, but lay the groundwork for what is possible in our future—a school system and a city that cares for and nurtures Black and brown youth.

ALEX HAN is an at-large delegate and a member of the UWF Executive Committee.



Pictures from the 2012 and 2013 school closings fights. All photos courtesy of Sarah-Ji.

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SIGN UP NOW SIGN UP NOW SIGN UP NOW SIGN UP NOW

Host a house party for **Brandon Johnson and the Chicago For The Many Slate!!**



House parties are a great way to raise money, recruit volunteers, and connect to a shared vision for our city and our party. Our experienced team will make sure you have everything you need to make your house party successful—and FUN!

Sign up here



Looking for a way to support our UWF slate for the many? Sign up today to host a house party to make sure that our candidates' campaigns are funded by the people—not the billionaire class.

Or email
ryan@unitedworkingfamilies.org
to host your own!