

BULLETIN

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VOLUME 48 - NUMBER 9

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2018



Get Cleared, Chicago Launches "Rap Sheet" Day Project Seeks to Break Recidivism that Contributes to Violence in Chicago

On Tuesday, August 28th, over 40 "returning citizens" loaded vans, rode the bus, took the "L" or simply walked to the Chicago Police Department Headquarters at 35th & Michigan, and participated in "Rap Sheet Day", a project led by the Monroe Foundation and the **Get Cleared, Chicago** consortium of community and faith-based re-entry advocacy groups.

On "Rap Sheet Day", pre-interviewed participants with past convictions over three years old, were fingerprinted at CPD, beginning the first-step in seeking to identify with the Get Cleared, Chicago consortium, opportunities for sealing or expungement of past offenses.

The theme of the mobilization, is "Making Work Possible"...from barrier to removal". Next, individuals will meet with pro bono attorneys led by project attorney, Robert Sharp, to begin evaluating the "sheets" and begin filing cases in court.

Speaking to CBS Channel 2 reporter Jim Williams, Rev. Anibal Vega, executive director of the Center for Community Development Initiatives, (right photo) a consortium mobilizer, stated, "I want my example of moving from my past to my future to be an example of redemption for others".

Other partners include: The North Lawndale Employment Network; Teamwork Englewood; The Rock Enterprise and Development (T.R.E.A.D.); Maafa Redemption Project and Sustaining Options for Urban Living (S.O.U.L.). Vanessa Talifero, principal of ADV Consulting Biz, coordinated the engagement with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chief Barbara West of the Chicago Police Department.

The Monroe Foundation received an **ActingUp Award** from the Chicago Community Trust which is being used to purchase the "Rap Sheets" and provide the legal evaluations. Support from PNC Community Development and US Bank is providing support for the workforce readiness training. A grant from the Field Foundation of Illinois will be used to evaluate the pilot launch, facilitated by Valerie Leonard, and issued an "advocacy impact report" to Chief Judge Tim Evans, calling for the assignment of more judges to hear and respond to filings more timely, reducing recidivism.

To learn more about **Get Cleared, Chicago** please contact Otis Monroe, (773) 315-9720 or donate to the campaign at www.GetClearedToday.org

(BULLETIN photos © by Hurley Green III)



North Lawndale Employment Network
creating a community that works



GET CLEARED!
The Campaign To
"Break Recidivism"



A project to end the school to prison pipeline by empowering ex-offenders to obtain their "Rap Sheets" (city and state), identify opportunities to "clear" and seal their records, and connect them to enabling resources that keeps "ex" from their names.

Join Us...Contribute to Us!
Our goal is to raise \$ 25,000 to underwrite the costs of obtaining criminal history "rap sheets" for participants, transportation to "Rap Sheet" sign-up advocacy days at the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police, and advocacy.

**JOIN US!
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEND:**

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