

KENWOOD OAKLAND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
1005 EAST 43RD STREET, CHICAGO - ILLINOIS 60653 (773) 548-7500

# KOCO CHRONICLE

**VOL. 9, ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2009**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>Olympics</i>          | 1/2 |
| <i>Grow Your Own</i>     | 1/3 |
| <i>Fundraiser</i>        | 3   |
| <i>A Special Tribute</i> | 2   |
| <i>KOCO Leader</i>       | 2   |
| <i>Organization Info</i> | 4   |

**Upcoming  
Events:**

**Springfield Advocacy Day**  
April 23, 2009  
State Capitol

**LSC Budget Training**  
May 9, 2009  
Dyett Academic Center

**Hunger Walk**  
June 20, 2009  
Montrose Harbor

**Ujima Day Camp**  
Starts July 6, 2009  
Kennicott Park

**Senior Health Fair**  
July 16, 2009  
King Center

**Olympic Meeting**  
July 30, 2009  
King Center

For more information  
contact (773) 548-7500

**OLYMPICS 2016: DON'T YOU DESERVE MORE?**

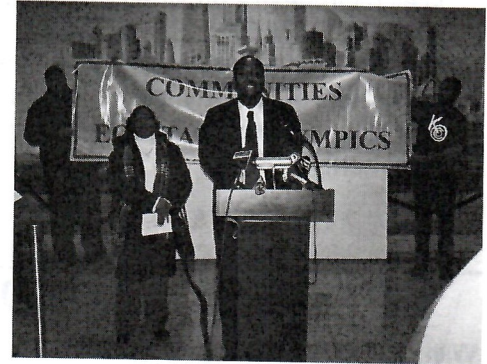
During the last year, the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO) has worked closely as a part of the Communities for an Equitable Olympics (CEO) 2016 Coalition to ensure that provisions are in place to protect our communities in the event that Chicago is selected to host the Olympics in 2016.

Since our first community meeting in January 2007, regarding the Olympics plans, KOCO has vigilantly worked to secure a legally binding commitment that includes affordable housing at the Olympic Site, affordable housing, construction apprenticeship positions, and increased opportunities for minority business owners.

The CEO 2016 Coalition organized community forums, held meetings with elected officials and Chicago 2016 (official organizing body for Chicago's Olympic bid), staged demonstrations and protests, held press conferences, and commissioned a poll.

These efforts have resulted in an agreement by the City of Chicago to support our recommendations for: 30% of

*(Continued on page 2)*



*KOCO Lead Organizer, Shannon Bennett at City Hall Press Conference*



*Concerned community residents listening intently during CEO Meeting*

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER (GYO) RALLY DAY**

This February, the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO) boarded buses headed for Springfield, IL. The purpose for the trip was to show support for the Grow Your Own (GYO) Teachers Program. The GYO program is a program designed to improve teacher quality by reducing the teacher turnover rate in hard to staff schools. Teacher candidates receive state aid to cover tuition fees and books, that aren't covered by the Pell Grant. Upon obtaining the teaching certificate, GYO Teacher Candidates must teach in hard to staff community schools for 5 years. KOCO partners with Enlace Chicago, Malcolm X College, Illinois State University and Chicago Public Schools for this amazing program.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## A Special Tribute

This edition of the KOCO Chronicle is in loving memory of Willie Welch who made his transition on May 30, 2009. He was a long time supporter of KOCO and our Senior Health Fairs. He and the Willie Welch Orchestra provided the beautiful jazz sounds at each Senior Health Fair since 2001 when they began! He loved music and graciously shared it with KOCO and many others. He will never be forgotten!



Willie Welch and a guest at KOCO's Fundraiser

## KOCO Leader Speaks Out

With Chicago competing for the 2016 Olympic Bid, Kathryn Madkins, a KOCO leader, is very concerned about being forced to move out of the community due to spiraling costs. She is currently raising her children, working full-time, and enrolled in college to become a teacher in the community. She wants to make sure that if Chicago wins the 2016 Olympic Games that long-term residents like her and her neighbors also win. Ms. Madkins says, "If the Olympics come to our neighborhoods, we want our elected officials to guarantee that we will remain in our neighborhoods and that our housing is affordable."

KOCO has been working in partnership with elected officials

for several months to develop an Olympic Community Benefits Ordinance to protect the rights of local residents and local communities. "In these financially uncertain times, this ordinance provides some piece of mind because it ensures affordable housing, living wage jobs and support for minority contractors. These benefits will only improve Chicago's chance of winning the bid, but ensure victory in 2016 for all residents of Chicago."

"If Chicago has any chance of winning the gold in 2016, we believe that every member of city council and Mayor Daley must sign on to support the Olympic Community Benefits Ordinance!"

## Olympics 2016

*(Continued from page 1)*

the housing units in the Olympic Village to be made affordable for people earning less than \$45,000 a year; 10% of the construction labor to go to apprenticeships from the neighborhoods most-affected by the development plans; and

25% of all of the contracts will go to minority-owned businesses, and 5% to go to women-owned businesses. Though CEO and KOCO have made some strides in ensuring that provisions are in place to protect the community, the work is not over. If you would like to find out more information about how you can get involved contact Mr. Bennett, KOCO's lead organizer, at 773.548.7500.

### LOOKING for Summer Activities for your kids?

#### Check out the Ujima Leadership Day Camp!

Field Trips - Arts & Crafts - Academic Enrichment  
Structured Recreational Activities - Workshops  
FUN!!

#### Starts in July Register your child today!

Ujima Leadership Day Camp operates from July through August from 8:30 AM—5:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Contact Jonathan Projansky @ (773) 548-7500 for more details



KOCO Leader, Kenya Jackson at City Hall Press Conference