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U.S. Senator Barack Obama Keynotes 39th Annual Reception

“Change comes about because Americans find the will to make it so. This is the will and the determination we need today when it comes to making sure that housing is affordable and available to every American.” So said U.S. Senator Barack Obama as he provided the keynote address at the Leadership Council’s 39th Annual Reception. The reception, sponsored by The Northern Trust, was held on June 24, 2005.

Senator Obama reminded the audience of more than 600 guests of the very realities that continue to motivate the work of the Leadership Council. Sen. Obama stated, “We know that where you live determines your ability to access meaningful life opportunities for yourself and your family. It can determine educational and employment opportunities, as well as access to quality health care, transportation, and safe neighborhoods. Where you live matters.” Sen. Obama also pointed out that the lack of housing for those most in need, continued discrimination, and cuts in federal housing funding have created a national housing crisis.

Specific interventions called for by Obama included: establishment of a national housing trust fund, helping public housing residents participate in the resurgence of their communities, and making “housing part of a national conversation,” as it was after Dr. King came to Chicago in the mid 60’s to help lead the Chicago Freedom Movement



U.S. Senator Barack Obama at the Leadership Council’s 39th Annual Reception (*photo courtesy of Edward Fox Photography*).

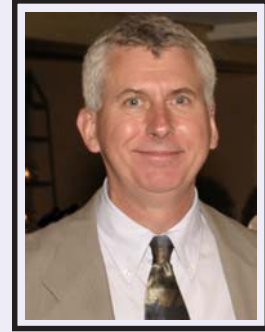
which led to the establishment of the Leadership Council.



Senator Obama and Leadership Council Board Chair Connie Lindsey, Senior Vice President of The Northern Trust Company, share a light moment at the 39th Annual Reception, sponsored by The Northern Trust (*photo courtesy of Edward Fox Photography*).

Message from the Acting Executive Director

The past few months have brought many changes to the Leadership Council. In mid-August, Howard Stanback resigned as President, and I was asked by the Board to serve as acting executive director. I've been with the Leadership Council in various capacities for 24 years, most recently as Senior Associate for Policy and Research. Before that, I had been Vice President for Community and Government Affairs.



A Board management committee has been created to oversee an organizational restructuring. Actions have been taken to cut costs while maintaining key programs. The Legal Action Program has been suspended. At least for now, fair housing complaints are being referred to other agencies. A fundraising appeal was also launched. To date, this appeal has generated over \$125,000, mostly from individual donors, as well as institutions such as LaSalle Bank, the Polk Foundation, the Field Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust. (Thanks to all!)

This turn of events has served to bring into even greater focus the essential need for the work of this organization, to challenge racial and economic segregation and to promote inclusive, diverse communities of opportunity. In the last few weeks we have had to think long and hard about the best means for continuing this work.

We have concluded that the Leadership Council enjoys a significant level of credibility, both regionally and nationally, and is uniquely qualified to advance this agenda. This is so not only because of our rich history but also because we continue to operate viable affirmative programs in the areas of applied research, policy advocacy, community building, and housing counseling. Our work with low income people of color is exemplified through the Gautreaux program and affirmative housing counseling.

No other organization in the region carries this agenda. There is no question that if we weren't present, this work would be greatly diminished. We're confident that the Leadership Council will continue to be an effective advocate for affirmative policies and community-based initiatives that support racial and economic justice in housing. These efforts contribute to and support diverse, mixed income communities in our region and nation.

In closing, on behalf of myself and the Board of the Leadership Council, please know we're completely committed to this work. We look forward to your continuing involvement and support. Please don't hesitate to call with questions. I can be reached at 312.341.5678 Ext. 246 or by e-mail at jlukehart@lcmoc.org.

John Lukehart

John Lukehart
Acting Executive Director

John (far right) was recently the recipient of Diversity, Inc's Diversity 2005 Award, "In recognition of...exceptional efforts advancing racial, ethnic, religious, and economic diversity in the Metropolitan Region and the Chicago Southland." Diversity, Inc., affiliated with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, is an organization of municipalities and other groups committed to efforts



that support multicultural diversity and economic vitality. Other recipients included Olympia Fields Mayor Linzey Jones, Jr. (also a Leadership Council board member) and Larry McClellan, former head of the South Suburban Metropolitan Leadership Institute at Governors' State and former mayor of Park Forest South, now University Park.

Gautreaux Program Ends: Council Advocates for New Mobility Program

Dorothy Gautreaux was the lead plaintiff in a landmark lawsuit that resulted in HUD and the Chicago Housing Authority having to support the nation's first mobility program. The program called for low-income families to receive housing vouchers, as well as affirmative housing counseling, that would help them relocate out of highly segregated CHA developments and into nonsegregated parts of the region. From 1978 to 1998, the Leadership Council administered the Gautreaux Assisted Housing Program and helped more than 7,500 families relocate into 115 different communities.

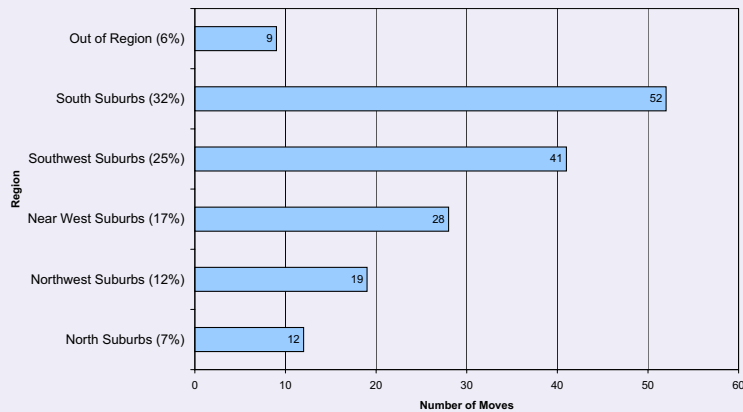
Gautreaux became nationally recognized for its demonstration of the importance of mobility counseling in helping families access better housing options. Dozens of mobility programs have been subsequently established using the Gautreaux model. Jim Rosenbaum and Len Rubinowitz of Northwestern University documented the work of Gautreaux in their book, *Crossing the Class and Color Lines* (2000), finding that the children of participating families fared especially well in terms of educational and employment outcomes.

In 2001, the Leadership Council, under contract with the Chicago Housing Authority, restarted the Gautreaux Program. Under the most recent contract, which concluded October 31, 2005, families could only use

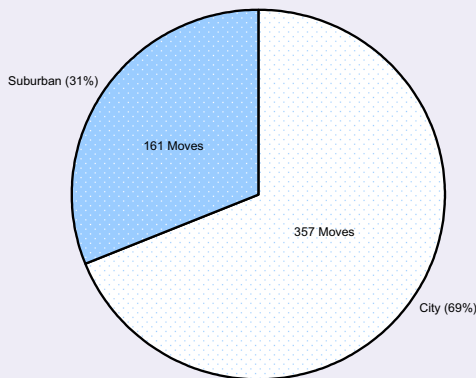
Gautreaux vouchers to move to areas with poverty rates under 24% and African American populations under 30%. From mid-2001 until now, the program has helped 538 families relocate to areas of greater opportunity throughout the region. Recently, the Gautreaux model has been highlighted in op-ed pieces

by David Brooks in the *New York Times* (9/8/05) and Greg Duncan in the *Chicago Tribune* (10/23/05) as one solution to the resettlement of families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Gautreaux II Suburban Moves by Region
June 2001 through October 2005



Gautreaux II Moves to Opportunity Areas
June 2001 through October 2005



The Leadership Council is currently in discussion with area housing authorities about offering additional Gautreaux-like mobility programs. In the meantime, the Council will continue, together with other fair and affordable housing groups, to advocate for the value of and need for mobility programs. These programs are presently threatened by various funding and policy positions being advanced or implemented by the current federal Administration.

Fair Housing Centers to Expand Services in Northwest Cook

While many organizations provide housing counseling, the Leadership Council is unique in the region in providing counseling with an affirmative focus, encouraging minority families to consider areas of higher opportunity where they are typically underrepresented.

Since January, the Council's Fair Housing Center (FHC) program has interacted with over 1500 home seekers. Nine homebuyer workshops have been conducted, attended by 258 people. In addition, another 143 people participated in eight other workshops on issues ranging from the ABC's of Banking to budgeting and credit repair. On Saturday, September 17 the FHC hosted the 14th Annual Homeownership Fair, which was attended by nearly 450 individuals. 30 vendors, including home inspectors, financial institutions, construction companies, attorneys, and Realtors, also participated. In addition, eight short seminars were conducted on various topics, including: understanding the home buying process; choosing a mortgage loan; and repairing, improving, and maintaining credit. As a result of these activities 54 families have relocated to date, including 32 to non-traditional areas of opportunity.

With support from HSBC, this past summer the Council produced a new comprehensive homebuyer's guide, "A World of Opportunity! Your Guide to Home Ownership," which is being used in all FHC programming.

Starting this fall, the FHC will be working with clients using space made available by the Northwest Housing Partnership located in Palatine and at a location to be determined in the near West Cook area. Services will continue from the main FHC located in Evergreen Park. The FHC is also expanding its outreach to area builders and employers in areas of high opportunity. Recently, FHC Director Jim Shannon was a presenter at WVON Radio's Home Buyer Expo and was a guest on The Cliff Kelley Show on WVON speaking about model communities and the role of racial diversity supported by fair housing.



Clients at the 14th Annual Home Ownership Fair learn about services from 1 of more than 30 vendors. The Fair assisted nearly 450 individuals.

New Developments in Development Program

The Leadership Council recently said goodbye to Brian White, former Director for Development and Director for Community Relations, who left at the end of September to head a new nonprofit, Lakeside CDC, on Chicago's north side. We wish Brian the best and thank him for his service and commitment to fair housing. We are pleased to welcome Mary Fran Riley as a development consultant in his place. Mary Fran brings more than 20 years' experience in housing and community development fundraising and program development, as well as a personal commitment to the work of the Leadership Council. Persons interested in exploring partnerships with the Leadership Council can reach Mary Fran at (312) 341-5678 x247.

Segregation Report Underscores Disparities; Highlights Reforms

Earlier this year, the Council released a report titled, *The Segregation of Opportunities: The Structure of Advantage and Disadvantage in the Chicago Region*. The study finds that despite some progress, stark racial and economic disparities and a highly uneven distribution of access to opportunities persists across the Chicago region. This is based in part on structural factors that include public policies, as well as continuing discrimination in housing. Since its release in May, at a forum sponsored by LaSalle Bank, the study has been presented to a number of regional and statewide groups, including a national conference on advancing racial justice sponsored by the Applied Research Center and UIC's Center for Urban Economic Development.

The study measured a variety of opportunity factors at the community level that includes the strength of the local tax base, quality of schools, access to jobs and transportation, and other quality of life issues, as compared to region-wide averages. The report then assessed the extent to which opportunities are available to people from various socio-economic groups, specifically as related to race and income. Communities were ranked in five categories from "lowest opportunity" to "highest opportunity," based on an averaging of opportunity scores. These findings were then correlated with the region's distribution of population by race and the location of affordable housing.

Among the many findings, two were of primary concern to us. First, the study shows that households with limited incomes have very few housing options in parts of the region with the greatest opportunities. In fact, 87% of the housing affordable to households earning \$25,525/year was in low opportunity communities. Second, race and access to opportunity are negatively associated. 94% of Black residents and 83% of Hispanic residents live in low opportunity areas. Many of the lowest opportunity census tracts are in Chicago, the south suburbs, a number of near west suburbs, and several of the older, satellite cities. High opportunity areas are concentrated in the north, northwest, west and far southwest suburbs, areas with small minority populations and little affordable housing.

These findings underscore the need for specific reforms proposed by the Council and others, including new state legislation and/or adoption of state policies to moderate fiscal disparities at the local level, such as regional tax sharing or reordering of the tax methods used to finance specific public services. State, local, and regional governments also need to take an affirmative role to address the imbalance between where jobs are being created and where affordable housing is located. This includes promoting economic development in areas with an abundance of affordable housing and expanding housing options in high growth areas. Reducing exclusionary zoning is crucial, as is expanding housing options for voucher households, immigrants, and other impacted groups. To read the study and access the color-coded maps that illustrate the report's key findings, visit our website at www.lcmoc.org/oppindex.shtml or contact Rob Breymaier, Director for Community Relations at (312) 341-5678 x249 to have a copy mailed to you.

Acting Executive Director John Lukehart presents the findings of the Leadership Council's Opportunity Index Research project at a standing-room only reception hosted by LaSalle Bank on May 9, 2005 (Photo courtesy of LCMOC).



Illinois Housing Roundtable Continues Forward Progress

Together with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest and Housing Action Illinois, the Leadership Council convenes the Illinois Housing Roundtable, an association of over 200 housing, community development, and civic groups statewide concerned with housing issues. The Roundtable coordinates housing advocacy efforts particularly at the state level and has become a primary vehicle for progressive policy reform. Over the past three years, with the leadership and support of Roundtable members, several pieces of important legislation have been enacted and both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly have housing and community development committees. The state, for the first time, also has a comprehensive housing plan guiding a host of housing and community development policy and funding decisions.

The Roundtable met in September to plan for next year's legislative session. Among the key priorities for the Roundtable will be codifying the Executive Order that led to the creation of the new state housing policy and passing an amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act that will extend protection to persons on the basis of source of income. Source of income discrimination is a primary factor limiting minority families, seniors, and persons with disabilities from accessing housing in the private market across the region. The Roundtable will also continue to look for innovative and fair means to support the preservation and creation of affordable housing along the lines of the Rental Housing Support program created this past year.

Leadership in Action

In recognition of his leadership and ability to work well with a variety of people, Rob Breymaier, Director of Community Relations, was recently elected President of the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, an umbrella organization of area private and public fair housing groups. Rob is also a member of the National Fair Housing Alliance's Government Affairs Advisory Committee and chair of the housing task force of the Chicago CRA Coalition

Housing Illinois and HousingMatters.Net Bolster Advocacy

Under the banner, "We Need the People Who Need Affordable Housing," *Housing Illinois* is a coalition of 40 agencies, including the Leadership Council, organized to develop a communications outreach campaign to generate greater acceptance of the need to increase the supply of affordable housing throughout the metropolitan Chicago area and the state of Illinois. Through this campaign, the work of members and others in local communities is being reinforced by a media campaign, including TV and radio commercials, print materials, and direct outreach. For more information, visit www.housingillinois.org.

The Leadership Council, along with many other Roundtable members, also participates in *HousingMatters.net*, an online resource that allows individuals and organizations from across the state to directly weigh in with elected officials on various housing policy issues. You can sign up with HousingMatters.net by visiting www.housingmatters.net. Both of these efforts are expanding the ability of advocacy organizations like the Council to impact public awareness and to engage public officials in ongoing efforts at the state and local level.

Over 175 Participate in 3rd Annual Diversity Walk

On Sunday, September 25, Northwest Cook Leaders held the 3rd Annual Diversity Walk. This year's walk took place in Rolling Meadows. Elected officials from four communities in the region, including the mayors of Arlington Heights and Rolling Meadows, also participated.

The event began with a 5K Walk through the community. Rolling Meadows' Mayor Kenneth Nelson welcomed walkers to the community and stated his enthusiasm for diversity and support for inclusive communities. Participants included people of many ethnic backgrounds from across the Northwest Cook County region.

Following the walk, participants enjoyed performances of dancing and singing from Latino and Nigerian groups and an award ceremony.

Three awards were given by Northwest Cook Leaders for outstanding dedication to the promotion of open and inclusive communities in Northwest Cook County. Tina Cabral of Clearbrook Services received the Bob Caton Community Service Award for her volunteer services. Laura Perez, owner of La Rosita, received the Stuart R. Paddock Jr. Civic Leadership Award for her support of the Diversity Walks.

Francisco Ramos, former Leadership Council Community Housing Advocate, received the Northwest Cook Leadership Award for his outstanding organizing and education work in the region.



Participants in the 3rd Annual Diversity Walk wind their way through Kimball Hill Park in Rolling Meadows.

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2005-2006

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Geography of Opportunity Forum Planned

The Leadership Council, together with Chicago Metropolitan 2020 and Northwestern University's Institute on Policy Research, will be hosting a forum with Xavier de Souza Briggs, editor of a newly released book, *The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America*, on November 29, 3 pm at Northwestern University's Kellogg School, 320 E. Superior Street, Wieboldt Hall, Room 440.

In this book, leading experts show why segregation persists and reveal its consequences. The book's analyses and proposed solutions parallel much of the work of the Leadership Council. Contact Rob Breymaier at 312.341.5678 Ext. 249 or rbreymaier@lcmoc.org, if you'd like to attend, or for more information. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

National Smart Growth Organization Highlights the Council

The Leadership Council was recently highlighted in *Signs of Promise*, a publication of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, featuring programs from across the country whose work is impacting regional and neighborhood equity. Based on interviews with leading foundation and philanthropic leaders, the report's author concluded that "the Leadership Council is a consistent advocate and a key figure that partners with regional planning groups, councils of governments, and others to encourage affirmative support for policies that will expand fair and affordable housing in the region...The Leadership Council's programs are a positive force towards race equity in fair housing and improved opportunity to jobs, education, and health care." For a copy of the article or the full report, contact Rob Breymaier at (312) 341-5678 x249 or rbreymaier@lcmoc.org.

FALL/WINTER 2005 NEWSLETTER

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