

## Stakeholders' Closing Comments at the 2009 Auburn Gresham Town Hall Meeting

- **Carlos Nelson** took to opportunity to acknowledge an existing partnership with St. Leo Veterans Campus and also the community's opportunity to help foster more partnerships as these.
- **Deborah Moore** provided a profound statement about property. She said, "Vacant properties don't pay property taxes. We must develop strategies to deal with vacant properties to sustain our community."
- **Representative Flowers** again reiterated the important of encouraging youth to go to school and asking parents to get involved in their children's lives?
- **Commander Johnson** expressed his gratitude for this forum and existing partnerships and said he and his department is committed to continuing them.
- **Kelwin Harris**, with a most humble regard, said he was overjoyed to be part of such an esteemed panel and encouraged a measure of accountability for all community and civic stakeholders.
- **Senator Collins** identified a listing of state agencies to audience participants that may not have been aware of as available resources. She further gave them her neighborhood district telephone number, office address and encouraged them to visit at any time.
- **Alderman Thomas** spoke to her lifelong commitment to Auburn Gresham and provided her local aldermanic correspondence as well. She also took to opportunity to reemphasize the importance of organized block clubs and strategies in which police officers and organized block clubs could deter violence.
- **Minister Muhammad** spoke prophetic words of love and respect for self. "When the 17<sup>th</sup> Ward loves themselves and others, we can avail ourselves to more resources. It's about what we do in our community that draws others to invest in our community. We must tear down barriers that exist between our faith communities and see ourselves as children of the Most High God. We must begin to transform the mindset of our community."
- **Father Pflieger** spoke of the neighborhood's personal responsibility, outrage, and accountability. He said, "We must have a personal responsibility and ask, 'what am I doing?' We must also be outraged and demand others to participate in the call of social justice. And finally, we must hold each resident, business owner, and educator responsible. We have too many gems here on the Southside of Chicago to be ignored."