

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE 12/20/15 WARD 18th

NAME Chuks Onyezia

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER L. Butler

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 1261 NUMBER REQUIRED 473

Please provide the following background information:

A. Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

NONE

B. Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

In 2011 18th ward candidate (finished 2nd, less then 100 votes short of runoff).

C. What is your primary occupation?

Attorney

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.

- ✓ The Neighbor local community newspaper (www.theneighbor60652.com), Publisher and Funder
- ✓ Scottsdale Homeowners Association, Member
- ✓ Public Defender, Legal Assistance
- ✓ Illinois Civil litigation Clinic, legal representative
- ✓ YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Program, Steering Committee Member
- ✓ O'Hallaren Park Advisory Council, Committee Member
- ✓ YMCA City Youth in Government Program, Politicla Research Coach
- ✓ Univercity of Illinois College of Business, Graduate Counselor
- ✓ Illinois Upward Bound College Prep Academy, Physics Instructor
- ✓ Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Academic Advisor
- ✓ Cook County Bar Association Young Lawyer's Section, Member
- ✓ Black Law Students Association, Executive Board
- ✓ Intellectual Property Legal Society, Vice President
- ✓ American Bar Association, Member,
- ✓ Patent Office Professional Association, Member
- ✓ CAP Beat 614 , community member

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

As for my educational training, I have earned degrees in both, The University of Illinois' MBA program with concentrations in Finance and The University of Illinois' College of Law. As for professional recognition and licensure, I hold an active license to practice law in the state of Illinois with active bar membership in good standing. In addition to these accomplishments, my technical

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background consists of a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics from The University of Illinois. I feel that all my experience will be helpful in the office of alderman of the 18th ward.

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

I supported Judge Steven Watkins in his judicial election in March of 2014. I was a field manager.

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

In my 2011 campaign I received endorsements from AFSCME, Chicago Teacher's Union, Citizen Action Illinois, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune, APAC, NUPAC, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood, and Chicago Dispatcher. 2015 endorsements are forthcoming.

H. As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

My experiences span multiple subject matters, from statutory interpretation (which helps in drafting city ordinances) to understanding of corporate finance (which is to be used in fiscal and financial determinations in spending taxpayer's money). I believe that my diverse background, both educational and Professional, my leadership qualities, communication skills, and inner drive to succeed, all add to the potential productivity that I can bring to City Hall.

- ✓ **Decreasing crime by fighting more youth services and opportunities.**
- ✓ **Creating jobs with increased efforts towards economic development**
- ✓ **Accessibility, connecting people to the services**
- ✓ **Fighting for a better educational system**
- ✓ **Improving fiscal and financial responsibility in use of city assets and taxpayer's money.**

I. What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

Budget \$90,000, raised \$34,000 to date.

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

8 staff and 35 current volunteers.

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Most questions on this questionnaire can be answered by checking either YES or NO. Others are essay questions and all have the option of answering in greater detail. Just hit enter at the end of the question and begin typing your answer in the additional space.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM AND ETHICS

	YES	NO	
	X		Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
1.			Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? Combine: Buildings with Zoning with Housing and Real Estate, Energy Environmental Protection and Public Utility with Health, License and Consumer Protection with Rules and Ethics, Special Events and Cultural Affairs with Historical Landmark Preservation.
2.			What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? The ability for a committee chair to control and allocate jobs is in need of better oversight.
3.	X		Would you give the Inspector General's office independent subpoena power or other compulsory process that can be directed against city officials, agencies and employees without necessitation the approval of the Mayor or Corporation Counsel?
4.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	X		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.		X	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
8.		X	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?
9.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance forbidding the City to hire or contract the services of anyone previously fired for cause from the City or any other unit of government?
11.		X	Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?
12.	X		Have you joined or will you join:
			The Paul Douglas Caucus
	X		The Independent Progressive Caucus
			Both
13.	X		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring redistricting of the wards to be based on non-partisan criteria and not to benefit any specific individual or political party?
15.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
16.		X	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
		X	Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
17.			Please explain your position. I feel that a candidate's ability to raise funds is an important measure in an ability to be an affective alderman.
18.			Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Nuruddin, Rashaf \$1055

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			<u>William Maynie \$500</u> <u>Christian Small \$200</u> <u>Devlin Schoop \$100</u> <u>Danielle Pinkston \$100</u>
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? <u>To protect the continuity of neighborhoods I would support redistricting maps that better resemble square shapes.</u>
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	X		Will you vote to hire independent analysts to conduct a forensic audit of past City spending?
			Will you vote for a budget ordinance which would require:
21.	X		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	X		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	X		restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?
24.		ESSAY	What additional revenue sources, if any, would you propose? <u>Even though I don't personally agree with gambling for its social effects, I do realize that the city is losing potential revenue to Indiana and suburbs. I also feel that casino gambling will attract and increase tourism and visitor spending.</u>
25.	X		Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	X		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.		X	Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance limiting future Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?
29.	X		Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
		ESSAY	Please explain your position. <u>I fully agree that the ratio of managers to the managed is too high.</u>
30.		ESSAY	What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? <u>Increase in the city contributions in properly funding pension plans from new revenue sources.</u>
31.		ESSAY	How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? <u>I would not modify an already fully and fairly negotiated agreement.</u>
32.	Choose One		Should discretionary funds for ward services and infrastructure improvements be allocated
			in equal amounts to each ward
			based on the size of each ward
			based on the needs of each ward
		X	
	YES	NO	
33.	X		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?
PRIVATIZATION			
34.		ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? <u>I am not a fan of Privatization of city assets or services.</u>
35.	X		Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?

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36.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring detailed analysis and evaluation of any lease or outsourcing arrangement at least 30 days prior to the City Council vote?
37.	ESSAY	<p>Before voting on privatization contracts, what will you do to ensure that they deliver the maximum return and best service for city residents in the long term?</p> <p><u>I will conduct or order a detailed investigation to analyze the over all benefit or detriment of such an arrangement. The investigation will should incorporate financial factors like Cap rates and the time value of money, social factors like or Chicagoans going to be put out of work by such a deal, and economic factors like how this lost asset effects the future economy.</u></p>
38.	ESSAY	<p>What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside of the scope of the Rutan decision requirements or any other anti-patronage rules or protocols?</p> <p><u>I support transparency in privatization and hiring. What I suggest is requiring a list of all relevant individuals responsible for the deal, similar to a statement of economic interest. This will shine light on the people involved in any privatization deal.</u></p>
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve ward residents in planning?</p> <p><u>I would form a better partnership with residents for soliciting advice in ward planning decisions. Through town halls, public forums and even new tools like web conferences, virtual meetings, and conference calls, useful feedback can be attained.</u></p>
40.	ESSAY	<p>What is your long-range plan for development of the ward?</p> <p><u>I would like to create an improved commercial area that can attract business into the ward. Specifically I would like to recapture the areas of the 18th ward that are underused and in disrepair and turn them into locations customized for telecommuting expansion offices and satellite offices. If major business looked to the 18th ward for expanding its offices, this would help reduce traffic for south side residence, allow south side employees a reduced commute, asset in the revitalization of poorly maintained areas of the city, allow businesses a cost effective option to downtown real estate, and allow residence to share a living and working community creating a stronger vested interest in there community.</u></p>
41.	ESSAY	<p>What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance?</p> <p><u>A determination of if it positively improves the ward/city and the residence standard of living.</u></p>
42.	ESSAY	<p>How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts?</p> <p><u>I would form a better partnership with residents for soliciting advice in ward planning decisions. Through town halls, public forums and even new tools like web conferences, virtual meetings, and conference calls, useful feedback can be attained.</u></p>
43.	X	Will you vote to terminate a TIF if the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is ended?
44.	X	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
45.	ESSAY	<p>How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?</p> <p><u>By allocating TIF surplus funds back to CPS to fill funding gaps.</u></p>
46.	X	Will you support a moratorium on creation of any new TIF districts until new funding sources are identified to replace the revenue diverted to the TIF?
47.	X	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in

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			public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
48.	X		Will you vote to invest substantially more in job-training and the creation of transitional job programs in disadvantaged communities, including the formerly incarcerated, homeless, youth, and non-English speakers?
HOUSING			
49.	X		Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
50.	X		Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?
51.	X		Will you vote for an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring developers to set aside 30% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?
52.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to guarantee that some of the foreclosed properties saved through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program are made affordable to families at 40% and 60% of AMI? <u>I would support reporting from NSP owners that they are following HUD guidelines, and support a future denial of funding if not followed.</u>
53.	ESSAY		What procedures and safeguards would you put in place on conversion/demolition of SRO's and other low income housing to ensure that affordable housing will continue to be available for low income tenants who would otherwise be displaced? <u>I believe the current CHA voucher program properly addresses these problems. I would support CHA not stockpiling funds, in favor of decreasing the current waitlist.</u>
54.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program? <u>I currently fight to make sure that the Housing Choice Voucher Program (section 8) is more competitive and enticing for home owners to rent to low income voucher holders.</u>
55.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs? <u>Continue to fight to make sure programs are more competitive and enticing for home owners to rent to low income voucher holders.</u>
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.		X	low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.		X	supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.		X	shelters for the homeless?
59.	X		Do you favor a moratorium on the conversion or demolition of SRO's pending the development of protections and remedies to protect the displaced tenants from becoming homeless?
60.		X	Do you support allowing the demolition of existing public housing units without new or rehabilitated replacement housing on a one-for-one basis?
61.	Choose One		Which standard should the City use to define affordable housing?
			AMI of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
			AMI of Cook County
			AMI of Chicago
	X		AMI of the Community Area
EDUCATION			
62.	Choose One		Which of the following options for choosing the School Board do you support?
		X	Popular Election

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			Mayoral appointment from nominations made by community representatives
			Maintaining the current system of Mayoral appointment
			A mix of elected and appointed members
	YES	NO	
63.	X		Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?
64.	X		Will you support LSCs in maintaining full powers, and support them through adequate funding levels that provide training and support for LSCs to do their jobs?
65.	X		Will you support a moratorium on school closings until a detailed analysis of the impacts of shuffling children is completed, and a real plan to address the quality of education and safety for every child is in place?
66.	X		Will you support development and implementation of a more comprehensive and accurate approach to evaluate student and teacher performance than reliance on the SAT and ACT tests?
67.	X		Would you favor repealing (or modifying) the 70% requirement for voting to authorize teacher strikes?
68.		ESSAY	<p>What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools.</p> <p><u>There are some real misleading success stories in the charter school movement; I feel that they deprive neighborhood schools of the students that have higher parental support. What is being done is a redistribution and isolation of the higher supported student. I don't feel that removing the top percentile is the answer. I think identifying defined revenue sources to properly fund and support CPS will provide for a real solution.</u></p>
69.		ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?</p> <p><u>I think identifying defined revenue sources to properly fund and support CPS will provide for a real solution. This will provide money for arts, music, and physical education. Also providing for more advanced education programs that better match the training needs of today's businesses and industries.</u></p>
70.		ESSAY	<p>What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?</p> <p><u>Provide money for arts, music, and physical education. Also providing for more advanced education programs that better match the training needs of today's businesses and industries.</u></p>
71.		ESSAY	<p>How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension?</p> <p><u>I support a fully and fairly negotiated labor agreement, and value honoring that contract.</u></p>
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	X		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
73.		X	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.	X		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.	X		Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.		ESSAY	<p>What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?</p> <p><u>Focus and increase education efforts on existing federal and State funding towards alternative energy</u></p>
78.		ESSAY	<p>What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose?</p> <p><u>The city should support alternative energy, such as retrofitting city buildings like schools with passive and active solar systems, investing in a fleet of electric vehicles, and off</u></p>

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			<u>shore wind turbines. If the city actively participated in such examples it would serve as a powerful example to encourage our residents to participate.</u>
PARKS			
79.	X		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		X	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? <u>I do not agree in privatization of public assets.</u>
81.	X		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.	X		Will you vote to increase the City subsidy to the CTA?
83.	Rank 1-5 or say no to any		Please indicate which CTA expansion plans, if any, you support and rank them in order of priority (1 highest)
		2	Red Line south to 130th Street
		1	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
		3	Downtown Circulator
		4	Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	X		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		X	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.	X		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.	X		Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved?
88.	X		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? Better interaction with residence in the cases of anonymous 911 calls.
89.	X		Do you support re-allocating police services from low-crime to high-crime neighborhoods?
90.	ESSAY		What changes, if any, would you suggest for the CAPS program? <u>Great program, but there is a need for more efforts toward recruiting and attendance building prior to a major negative crime event.</u>
91.	X		Will you vote for more funding for alternative crime prevention programs such as Cease Fire?
92.	ESSAY		What measures will you support to stop the schools to prison pipeline? <u>Better equity in ticketing for low quantity drug possession.</u>
93.	X		Do you support gun control?
94.	ESSAY		What measures, if any, should the City Council adopt in response to recent court decisions striking down Chicago's handgun ban? <u>None, I agree with the current state law that regulates gun ownership and possession.</u>
95.			Will you vote to order the City to stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?
96.	ESSAY		Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Independent Police Review Authority and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department. <u>I believe that the IPRA should act as the initial finders of fact in advisement on if an officer</u>

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		<u>acted reasonably within his/her role as an officer.</u>
CIVIL RIGHTS		
97.	X	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	X	Do you support affirmative action as a criteria in letting city contracts?
99.	ESSAY	Please comment on current participation of individuals with disabilities in city hiring and contracts. <u>I agree that the disabled are an underrepresented protected class that are regularly discriminated against and assistance should be given to balance hiring to mirror the city percentage of individuals with disabilities.</u>
100.	ESSAY	Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion. <u>I find that the numbers of women and minority hiring in the city is not in line with the city population. More needs to be done to actively recruit these groups in municipal jobs.</u>
101.	X	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	X	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	X	Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY	Why or why not? <u>Municipal ID would create an unnecessary city expense in the administering and distribution. A means test in offering state ID vouchers would be a more cost affective alternative.</u>
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? <u>Serving as alderman would be my number one priority.</u>
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? <u>Serving as alderman would be my number one priority.</u>
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. <u>At least 40 hours per week.</u>
107.	ESSAY	Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them, and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open. <u>My vision is to have a staff of 3 fulltime, 3 part time and 6 temporary/intern/volunteer. Staffing will be fully supported by proper allocations budgeted towards aldermanic staffing and discretionary funding. I envision 48 hours of service per week (Monday - Saturday)</u>
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? <u>The biggest complaint is Streets and Sanitation services. Streets are not properly cleaned and snow not timely removed. I would fight to return ward control of the garbage, street sweeper, and snow trucks.</u>
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>Decreasing crime by fighting more youth services and opportunities.</u> ✓ <u>Creating jobs with increased efforts towards economic development</u> ✓ <u>Accessibility, connecting people to the services</u> ✓ <u>Fighting for a better educational system</u> ✓ <u>Improving fiscal and financial responsibility in use of city assets and taxpayer's</u>

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		<u>money.</u>
110.	ESSAY	<p>How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters?</p> <p><u>I would form a better partnership with residents for soliciting advice in ward decisions. Through town halls, public forums and even new tools like web conferences, virtual meetings, and conference calls, useful feedback can be attained. I feel that the internet, as a communication tool, is far to underused in the City of Chicago. I feel that fully using the web in relaying a consistent and clear message would be a great addition to CAPS and other community groups towards having a constructive dialogue.</u></p>