

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

DATE: 12/22/14

WARD: 31ST

NAME: IRMA CORNIER

VOTING ADDRESS: 5124 W. Fullerton Avenue Chicago, IL 60639

HOME PHONE: 773-401-8554

BUSINESS PHONE: 312-927-8069

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: IN PROCESS

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 312-927-8069 FAX

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE: www.Cornierfor31.org EMAIL: cornierfor31@gmail.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: OTTO BLANCO

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 1288

NUMBER REQUIRED: 473

Please provide the following background information:

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

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

C. What is your primary occupation? Community Outreach Coordinator

D. Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. Community outreach and public event coordination through providing free accessible services to the predominant Latino population in Chicago in the Belmont Cragin, Hermosa Park, and Humboldt Park Communities. Volunteered with various homeless programs including "Hot Meals for the Homeless," "Meals in Humboldt Park," "Outreach to the Homeless ministry," Collected toys, medical supplies, and toiletries for Lydia Home and orphanages both here and out of the country. Helped several seniors with public assistance programs and aided numerous veterans with their benefits and recognition.

E. What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? Foundations for Social Justice, Principles and Processes in Community Development, Leadership in Social Justice, Diversity and Equity, Grant Writing and Fundraising, Social Justice Field Practicum Graduate Internship through the City of Chicago Aldermanic Office/Alderman John Arena.

F. What candidates have you supported in past elections? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. Precinct Coordinator and Poll Watcher for the 8th District Cook County Commissioner Edwin Reyes 2014, Volunteer for Senator William Delgado in 2014, and Canvasser and Organizer for Mayoral Candidate Pastor Wilfredo De Jesus in 2011.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 1

G. Please list all endorsements you have received so far. None.

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?

The area is predominantly Latino and they need a community person that knows the struggles and the issues of the ward. It is easier for a Latino to relate to a community person that has their best interest at heart and has been in the community conducting community events for years as oppose to a person that cannot relate to the diverse culture. Being from a low-income environment I understand the people and can be bi-cultural. This ward needs a person that will voice their concerns and that they can relate to which is crucial.

My goals will be to reduce the crime by initiating community centers in the ward which we have never had in the 20 years of the incumbent being in office. I will work on bringing in resources for our youth and jobs for the young adults due to the high crime.

I. What is your campaign budget? \$50K How much have you raised to date? Over \$6K

J. How many people are on your campaign staff? I have seven fully dedicated volunteers on my campaign staff.

How many volunteers are on your list? I have a robust list of 53.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

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	
		NO	Do you favor maintaining the current number of City Council committees?
1.	ESSAY		Which committees, if any, would you combine or eliminate? I would not combine and or eliminate any committees because the City of Chicago is an immense metropolitan area that needs several departments to safeguard the concerns and the issues of the residents. There are over a million people in the city and I believe the number of committees suffices and the current structure addresses the needs of the constituents adequately.
2.	ESSAY		What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee rules and structure? There should be a limit on the committees an alderman can join as well as chair. I believe that a council member cannot have a business that ties with the committee-there should be a conflict of interest clause that prohibits an alderman that has more than a dozen properties in real estate to chair the Housing and Real Estate Committee.
3.	YES		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.	YES		Should the Inspector General be able to initiate his or her own investigations of Aldermen without a complaint from outside the office?
5.	YES		Should the Inspector General be able to pursue anonymous complaints?
6.		NO	Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?
7.		NO	Will you employ or have you employed staff, in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
8.		NO	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.	YES		Will you vote for an ordinance mandating that the City contest unemployment claims by former employees who were fired for cause?
10.	YES		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.	YES		Will you support an ordinance to reduce the number of wards?
12.			Have you joined or will you join:
		NO	The Paul Douglas Caucus
	YES		The Independent Progressive Caucus
		NO	Both
13.	YES		Do you support changing the state statute to return to filling aldermanic vacancies by special election, rather than Mayoral appointment?
14.	YES		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.		NO	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?
16.		NO	Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from people or businesses seeking zoning changes in your ward?
17.	YES		Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I only support public financing if it is done fairly and there are reasonable limits to campaign

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

			funding and the amount a person raises. It has to be achievable to all regardless of socioeconomic background. Also, it has to be done with complete transparency and in a manner that it won't affect either the candidate or the donors.
18.	ESSAY		Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign? Irma Cornier-\$3840.47 Josefina Lozada-\$1500.00 Tomas Lozada-\$600.00 Matthew Emmick-\$250.00 Elizabeth Blanco-\$100.00
19.			What changes would you support to the redistricting process? Constituent involvement.
REVENUE AND BUDGET			
20.	YES		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.	YES		public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?
22.	YES		making budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?
23.	YES		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? To work with the Legislative bodies to implement a progressive tax, reduce the number of aldermen in the City of Chicago, and enforce higher taxes on luxury items such as boats and cars to bring in additional revenue to the city.
25.		NO	Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?
26.	YES		Will you vote to require a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?
27.	YES		Will you vote to roll back Mayoral and Aldermanic salaries to pre-2007 levels?
28.	YES		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?
	YES		Do you agree with the criticism that City government is top heavy with management?
29.	ESSAY		Please explain your position. The city has too many individuals in various departments that mirror corporate positions such as a CEO in the Board of Education and a CFO in the Mayor's office. I believe that city government should not emulate a corporation it should be a transparent democracy.
30.	ESSAY		What measures will you vote for to reform the city pension plan and ensure its solvency? Many difficult decisions will have to be made. At this time the pension solution is directly tied to what the Supreme Court and the State Legislature will do, as it relates to pensions. Then a clear and long term answer can be offered for the pension and the overall financial health of the city.
31.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public employee pensions? Many difficult decisions will have to be made. At this time the pension solution is directly tied to what the Supreme Court and the State Legislature will do, as it relates to pensions.
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
		X	based on the needs of each ward
	YES	NO	
33.	YES		Will you institute participatory budgeting to allow ward residents to vote on discretionary spending in your ward?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

PRIVATIZATION		
34.	ESSAY	Which city services or assets, if any, do you believe should be privatized and what is your criteria? I don't believe in privatizing city services or giving up our assets.
35.	YES	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring an independent analysis of any lease or outsourcing arrangement?
36.	YES	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	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? I'm against any privatization contract.
38.	ESSAY	What procedures will you implement to ensure that privatization arrangements are not being used to move patronage workers outside the scope of the Rutan decision requirements or any other anti-patronage rules or protocols? My office will abide to the rules and regulations of the Board of Ethics and the Investigative General's Office, and I will implement my good government and transparency policy to ensure that these arrangements do not come to fruition.
PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
39.	ESSAY	How will you involve ward residents in planning? By having open meetings and implementing volunteer community steering committees and subcommittees.
40.	ESSAY	What is your long-range plan for development of the ward? I would focus on public safety and work on creating an environment of safety for the commerce to develop growth and security for both the residents and the businesses.
41.	ESSAY	What criteria do you or will you use in determining whether or not to grant a zoning change or variance? If it clearly benefits the residents and the quality of life of the neighborhood I will grant the zoning change.
42.	ESSAY	How will you involve residents in planning, approval, and oversight of TIF districts? By having open meetings and implementing volunteer community steering committees and subcommittees.
43.	YES	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.	YES	Will you vote to return unspent and uncommitted TIF funds on an annual basis to the various taxing bodies?
45.	ESSAY	How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development? I will work with legislation to bring forth an ordinance and work with state legislators to bring into dialogue and propose to work on the TIF issues that are affecting blighted areas in the city and in our schools.
46.	YES	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.	YES	Will you vote for an ordinance requiring that large corporate entities receiving \$250,000 or more in public subsidies, and their tenants, must pay their workers a living wage (currently \$11/hour)?
48.	YES	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.	YES	Will you vote to amend the Vacant Properties Ordinance to require mortgage servicers to register their properties?
50.	YES	Do you support enacting an ordinance to preserve Single-Room Occupancy housing?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

51.	YES		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? I will work closely with organizations that work with NSP. Since it creates a high quality energy efficient housing for subsidies based on the income levels and neighborhoods. I will also conduct open meetings and workshops in all parts of the ward ensuring constituents of this benefit and encourage home ownership to everyone.
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? My office will work diligently with offering other housing opportunities to the any displaced low income tenants. We will work with Hispanic Housing to relocate if the SROs are demolished. I will advocate on behalf of the tenants that live in SROs since they have a right to a living space that they can afford. I believe we must be fair and cannot penalize anyone for being low-income.
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? Any developers that propose and request permits for new developments in my ward will have to include in their contract a significant percentage that will be subsidized towards affordable housing.
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? Through the Hispanic Housing Program I will inform constituents that there is housing available to non Section 8 recipients, and that they qualify based off of their income level, because I believe everyone has a right to a living space regardless of their socio-economic background. Also, new housing development will have to include affordable housing units to low-income individuals.
	YES	NO	Do you support any of the following to be built in your ward?
56.	YES		low income rental housing that is affordable to those at 15% to 30% of AMI?
57.	YES		supportive housing for people overcoming addiction and other problems which contribute to homelessness?
58.	YES		shelters for the homeless?
59.	YES		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.		NO	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
			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.		NO	Will you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

64.	YES		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.	YES		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.	YES		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.	YES		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>There is no substitute for neighborhood schools I believe that the Charter Schools that have been developed in my ward have taken assets and public dollars away from the public schools and have been incorrectly utilized to benefit private investors as oppose to the children which are the primary focus. I believe that if the programs and monies were initially invested in the public schools instead of building new charter schools both public schools and children would have benefited as oppose of being divided and causing layoffs.</p>
69.	ESSAY		What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools? Invest in the schools and propose and implement new programs that would increase enrollment. Create a partnership with neighborhood and city organizations to promote a healthy school environment.
70.	ESSAY		What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward? I would love to partner up with organizations throughout the city and ward that would create new programs and create a safer and productive environment that will empower and raise social consciousness in my ward.
71.	ESSAY		How would you modify (if at all) the benefit and contribution levels and eligibility requirements for public school teacher pension? I will work with other public officials to intervene dialogue with State Legislation the duties and obligations to the CTPF. We will work collaboratively to propose and come to a consensus on an overdue matter that should have been resolved decades prior to my candidacy for office.
ENVIRONMENT			
72.	YES		Will you vote for the Clean Power Ordinance?
73.		NO	Will you vote to privatize Chicago's water delivery system?
74.	YES		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago public schools?
75.	YES		Will you vote to ban Styrofoam food containers in Chicago restaurants and food delivery services?
76.		YES	Will you vote to adopt the water quality standards recommended by the Pollution Control Board?
77.	ESSAY		What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy? The city should raise efficiency standards for new and existing power generators and procure enough renewable energy generation for Chicagoans to reduce electricity emissions by 20%. Increase efficient power generated onsite using distributed generation and combined heat and power.
78.	ESSAY		What other environmental initiatives, if any, do you propose? Invest in organic farming and acquire more buildings that are naturally renewing the energy themselves even if they need to be rehabbed to accommodate the organic farms. They will be organic farm buildings that will have aquaponic and aeroponic farms. Vertical farming will be in the farms as well to create local greens and fish to the city. We already have the largest indoor organic farming building in the nation. I would want to invest in several other buildings to promote a greener and healthier lifestyle for all.

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

PARKS			
79.	YES		Do you support election of the Chicago Park District Board?
80.		NO	Do you support increased privatization of park facilities and services?
	ESSAY		Why or why not? I do not support privatization of public parks because this is an accessible asset to everyone from all income brackets, and it will be unfair to sell an asset that should be originally for the leisure and the aesthetic enjoyment of nature lovers and families. Our parks are not for sell and shouldn't be converted into marketable tools for self interest groups and or corporations.
81.	YES		Do you support prioritization of land acquisition and capital improvements first to those neighborhoods which are underserved by existing facilities?
TRANSPORTATION			
82.		NO	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)
		1	Red Line south to 130th Street
		2	Orange Line to Ford City Mall
		3	Downtown Circulator
		4	Downtown-O'Hare Express
			Other – please specify
	YES	NO	
84.	YES		Do you support renegotiation of Chicago's parking meter privatization deal?
85.		NO	Do you support privatization of Midway Airport?
86.	YES		Do you support the O'Hare expansion plan?
CRIMINAL JUSTICE			
87.		NO	Is 911 response time adequate?
	ESSAY		If not, how can it be improved? In my ward with the high crime rate the 911 response time is inadequate. I have called in several incidents and there have been multiple occasions where I have waited hours for an incident to be resolved and no one shows up at the scene. 911 needs to be addressed the only problem we have in our ward is that the 25 th Police District covers a massive area in Chicago. I believe there should be an additional district added on into the ward to accommodate the high levels of crime we have in this area.
88.	YES		Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward?
	ESSAY		If so, what can be done to redress them? I believe that there needs to be more community policing assigned to the 31 st Ward and that there needs to be more beat officers as well as add an additional district that just focuses on gang and narcotics prevention in the area. This is still a high crime area and narcotics is still too high as well as the gangs in our ward in which its size has been reduced drastically.
89.	YES		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? I would focus on having CAPS involved in the schools and conducting monthly meetings at the police district so that the constituents may develop rapport and familiarity with community policing and the procedures of the emergency services.
91.	YES		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? Work with the State

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

		Legislation and Supreme Court to mandate new laws and ordinances that are in favor of equal education regardless of race, gender, and or special needs.
93.	YES	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? This is a complex issue because the Supreme Court overruled the mandate and stated that it is against the Second Amendment to bear arms. Many difficult decisions will have to be made. At this time the handgun ban is directly tied to what the Supreme Court has decided. The only recourse my office has is to try to work alongside with State Legislation to attempt another motion to appeal the case to the Supreme Court.
95.	YES	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. I believe the Independent Police Review Authority complies with their cases and transparency, but they need to be a separate agency, and should function more independently since it holds the accountability of the ethics of the police. It is important to have an agency hold accountable to the employees that are hired to protect and serve the people.
CIVIL RIGHTS		
97.	YES	Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?
98.	YES	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. I believe every human has a significant purpose in life and if individuals with disabilities desire employment in the city and are capable of the job duties, they have every right as a human to proceed and be hired.
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. We are in need of more women and minority participation in both the Fire and Police Department. There are only 10% of Latinos in the Police Department and that is unacceptable. We need to see more minorities and women in leadership as well. There is a disturbing ongoing lack of color and diversity in both the Police and Fire Department.
101.	YES	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
102.	YES	Will you vote to require all City vendors and contractors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?
103.	YES	Will you vote for the Municipal ID ordinance?
	ESSAY	Why or why not? I believe that regardless of citizenship status an individual has the right to have an identification stating they are from the municipal to be allowed access to all city agencies. I believe everyone should have a community identity and have accessible access to libraries, enroll their children and or themselves in schools, and have access to health services.
ALDERMANIC PRIORITIES		
104.	ESSAY	What employment, if any, other than alderman, do you intend to hold? None, the Aldermanic position is a full-time job and I want to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to the constituents of my ward.
105.	ESSAY	How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation? As

IVI-IPO 2015 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

		stated above I will be a full-time Alderman.
106.	ESSAY	Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties. The minimum amount of hours I will spend conducting my Aldermanic duties will be 40 hours per week.
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. First of all, the office will be open a full 40 hours per week and the City of Chicago provides a budget for every Aldermanic office to hire 3 full-time employees. There are also extra monies that can be used to hire part-time contract workers. My full-time staff will comprise of a bilingual [Spanish] chief of staff, bilingual [Spanish] director of economic development and zoning, bilingual [Spanish] director of constituent services. I will contract three part-time workers to work with buildings& permits, special events, and the reception area. Also, I will have student interns and volunteers to both learn the Aldermanic office and work in community events.
108.	ESSAY	What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this? Public safety and resources for our youth. I would achieve it by proposing community centers and implementing a street intervention youth program. Also, I will have community policing to develop rapport with the constituents and the residents.
109.	ESSAY	What are your top priorities for the Ward? Crime Prevention and Public Safety which would help stimulate greater business activity by providing a safe environment for existing business owners and those willing to invest in our community. This would not only benefit business but would provide safety and improved quality of life to the residents of the ward. The biggest concern I hear from the residents is too much gang activity and lack of resources for our youth.
110.	ESSAY	How will you work with community groups and residents on City matters? I will conduct multiple community outreach events where we can collaborate and inform the community of all the accessible resources in both the city and the ward. I will also have open community meetings and allow the ward to discuss their concerns regarding City matters. If needed and if the community is willing I will create volunteer subcommittees and committees that will voice the concerns of the ward.