

Statement to the Cook County Board

Darrius M. Lightfoot

March 2, 2014

I would like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of Cook County as a member of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Advisory Board. I am a community Organizer in the Southside neighborhood of Woodlawn. I have advocated for juvenile justice since 2007. As a lead youth Organizer my youth-led Organization FLY (Fearless Leading by the Youth) has been spearheading this movement and has accomplished a lot through the years. During the previous administration I led a successful campaign; the cause was to improve sanitary conditions in the JTDC. As a leader of FLY I am accountable to a group of young people. Saying that, the voice that I bring to the Board is not just mine, it's the voice of many young people from many neighborhoods. We also are working with the community to find out what alternatives or reforms they think need to be implemented.

Justice is a term people use very broadly and sometimes they do not even know the meaning. Having been involved in the juvenile justice system as a detainee at the JTDC, I know what goes on there. Because of that I know what the youth need, as well as the negative impact incarceration has on youth. This is another valuable resource that I bring to the table. I am a young black man and as the data shows, that is the highest rate of youth in the JTDC. Part of my work is working with criminally involved youth in the neighborhood; this gives me first-hand knowledge of what reforms are needed.

My work with Juvenile Justice helps me build many relationships with various groups and individuals who do similar work concerning juvenile justice. I have been trained in the art of Peace Circles, which is a form of Restorative Justice, thanks to Precious Blood, an organization from the Back of the Yards Neighborhood. I am part of a Juvenile Justice National Task Force with The Burns Institute, based in San Francisco, California. I have been part of many juvenile justice conferences nationally, which gave me the opportunity to build relationships with groups and individuals who do similar work. These relationships are a valuable resource I will bring with me to the Board.

I believe I will be a great asset to the Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Darrius Lightfoot

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DARRIUS LIGHTFOOT

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EDUCATION

Southside Leadership Academy, Chicago, IL.
G.E.D., 2011.

Harold Washington College
Associates degree, Projected 2016.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) 2011-Present

Youth Organizer, STOP is a community organization founded to confront gentrification in the Woodlawn community; it builds grassroots leadership around issues of community concern.

- Created and implemented a leadership development curriculum used with youth (ages 14-21).
- Founded and led, Fearless Leading Youth, which is an organization led by youth from the south side of Chicago who organize around issues that directly impact youth.
- Led a campaign which brought critical media attention to human rights violations occurring in the Juvenile Detention Center and organized public meetings, which resulted in immediate improvements including access to clean clothes and cleaner facilities.
- Facilitated intergenerational workshops and community town halls.

Motivational Speaker and Trainer 2011 - Present

Led workshops on leadership and civic engagement for hundreds of students in Chicago Public Schools and alternative schools on the south side.

AWARDS

Fellowship: School of Unity and Liberation Summer School June – August 2011

Selected to participate in an elite advanced organizing internship program with youth organizers from around the country.

ACTIVITIES

La Voz de los de Abajo 2013

Traveled to Honduras with a delegation of teachers and high school students to meet with organizations working to establish democracy and respect for human rights in Honduras. Organized a community report back in Chicago.

Chicago Students Organizing to Save Our Schools 2012

Organized community events around education reform at local community schools. Recruited students, parents, teachers, staff and community members to lead and participate in events.

Fearless Leading by the Youth 2007 - 2011

Volunteer Community Organizer, Organized meetings, community education events and trainings.

SKILLS

Computer Literate: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint.

Public Speaking.

Poetry and Creative Writing.



**Cook County
Office, Board or Commission Affidavit**

Please fill out this application completely. Incomplete affidavits will not be considered for appointment. Please also submit your resume.

Please email the completed affidavit to Patrick Carey, Special Assistant for Governmental and Legislative Affairs at patrick.carey@cookcountyil.gov and Brian Miller, Office of Commissioner Larry Suffredin at bmiller@suffredin.org.

APPLICANT INFORMATION							
Which office/board/commission are you applying for?			Cook County JTDC Advisory Board				
Last Name	Lightfoot		First	Darrius		M.I.	M.
Current Street Address	2004 W. 70th Place				Apartment/ Unit #		
City	Chicago		State	IL		ZIP	60636
Phone	(773) 776-9031		E-mail Address	lightfootdarrius@gmail.com			
How long have you lived at your current address?							
Do you have multiple residences in Cook County?			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
If yes, please list your other addresses and which address is your primary address:							

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Have you received a Homeowner's Property Tax Exemption at any other address other than your primary address during the current tax year?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is your primary residence located within the district of the office, board, or commission that you are applying for?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you reviewed the legal requirements for the appointment that you are seeking?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you fulfill the legal requirements for the appointment that you are seeking?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you possess any conflicts of interest that would prevent you from adequately representing the interests of the office, board or commission that you are applying for?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you notify the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Chairman of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners if there is a change to any of the statements set forth in this instrument?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Under penalties of perjury, I state that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, correct and complete.

Applicant's Name: Darrius M. Lightfoot

Applicant's Signature: Darrius Lightfoot

Date: March 12, 2014

Subscribed and sworn before me this 12th day of March, 2014

Notary Signature: Ann Frances Schaffer



Notary Stamp