

ENTERCOM CHICAGO

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

STATION WBBM-AM and HD

SECOND QUARTER, 2019
APRIL 1 THROUGH JUNE 30

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**ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CHICAGO
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
SECOND QUARTER 2019**

1. Business and Job Development: Creating an economic climate that supports small business and entrepreneurs. Provide assistance to develop new businesses and jobs in distressed economic areas.
2. Crime and Violence: Support of community policing efforts in Chicago, efforts to reduce gang activity and the spread of gangs into the suburbs, ensuring that the police department operates legally and with respect the communities it serves.
3. Transportation: Maintenance, improvement and safety of Chicago's transportation system, including the airports, commuter rail service, and highway development.
4. Neighborhood and Suburban Development: Efforts within the City of Chicago to promote neighborhood cohesion, economic opportunities and housing. Infrastructure concerns.
5. Health Care: Providing adequate facilities for health care, particularly indigent care; providing affordable health care and access to services.
6. Voter Information: Helping voters make personal election decisions by giving insights into those that are running for offices in upcoming elections.
7. Environment: Issues impacting healthful living of Chicagoans, including vegetation, waterways and other related infrastructure.
8. School Reform and Education: Efforts to improve student performance and achievement, making sure teachers are performing well in the classroom and general educational issues in Chicago and suburbs.

WBBM NEWSRADIO 780
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. At Issue: (Sundays, 9:30am and 9:30pm Duration: 30:00)
Locally produced interview show featuring top newsmakers discussing state and community issues.
2. Made in Chicago: (Mondays, 6:51am, 10:52am, 4:51pm, Saturday, 2:55am, 6:55am, 3:55pm, 7:55pm, Duration 1:00) In-house produced feature spotlighting manufacturing and service companies in Chicago and its suburbs. Topics are chosen based on the worldwide reputation of the goods made or the unique stories of the entrepreneurs that founded the companies.
3. Bloomberg Small Business Report: (Tuesday & Thursday, 10:52am, 1:52pm, 4:51pm; Saturday, 7:55am, and 10:55am; and Sunday, 8:25am, 2:25pm, 4:25pm and 7:25pm. Duration 1:00) Produced by Bloomberg, this feature focuses on issues affecting small business and entrepreneurs.
4. Report on Religion: (Sunday, 12:41p, 5:20p, 7:41p. Duration 2:00)
CBS Radio Network feature focusing on news from various religious faiths and denominations and discussing faith-inspired viewpoints on current issues.
5. Face the Nation (Sundays, 11:30am and 11:30pm. Duration 30:00) Weekly interview program produced by CBS News that discusses top issues of the day from a national perspective with people who are making news on those issues.

I. BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

April 7, 2019

Guest: Robert Reiter, Jr., President of the Chicago Federation of Labor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired less than a week after the election of Lori Lightfoot as Chicago's next mayor. Reiter said the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL) is a coalition of 300 unions representing a half million workers in Chicago and Cook County. The unions played a major role in the election, both in endorsing candidates, and funding their campaigns. He said the goal is having elected officials support working men and women, and the CFL backs candidates who have shown that already. He said this is no different than any community and political organizing that has existed since the start of the last century. Reiter said the CFL made clear in discussions with all the candidates what the union members are looking for from the next Mayor and City Council. He said those conversations now continue. The host, Craig Dellimore, mentioned that the Chicago Teachers Union, which backed Toni Preckwinkle, issued a statement after the election saying their militancy does not depend on who is mayor, and they'll continue to pressure officials to support their efforts. Reiter said he's looking forward to working with Lightfoot and the City Council, "assuming they are who they say they are." He wants to be sure there's accountability. He also said confrontation often leads to agreement, and that was the case with Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He said not every fight will be one of escalation, but knows they won't agree on everything. He said the job of labor leaders is to advocate and fight for people. He said he's hoping he won't be fighting with the new Mayor, but that he and Lightfoot fight aside one another against the forces that want to hold them down. Asked about the new Illinois Governor, Reiter said J.B. Pritzker has been refreshing. He said former Governor Rauner was pouring money in local elections trying to get his agenda going, reducing the labor unions. Reiter said the unions countered successfully, with the rank and file showing up at local village board meetings and making their points. Asked about any current troubling issues, Reiter said their lining up before the "fair tax initiative," or progressive income tax, under which Pritzker has said 97 percent of residents will get a tax break. Reiter said opponents trying to protect millionaires are using silly arguments saying the tax will raise less than being touted. Reiter said even if true, that's still big money that can help the state. He said this is only about the rich trying to run the table on the average American worker. He mentioned how under Rauner key agencies were underfunded. He said the state government needs rebuilding to serve the public, and he said that won't get fixed in one legislative term. At the city and county level, the CFL is pushing ordinances and policies to protect working people. He talked about a fair work week ordinance before the Chicago City Council that would put rationality into the scheduling process. He said many workers suffer from scheduling abuses from employers. He mentioned working with the hospitality, restaurant and travel and lodging industries to have dialogue and solve problems.

At Issue

April 21, 2019

Guests: Jim Durkin, Illinois House GOP Leader

20 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program dealt with how Republicans in the state legislature are likely to hand the new realities in Springfield with the new Democratic Governor taking over from Republican Bruce Rauner. A key portion of JB Pritzker's agenda is getting a constitutional amendment passed to allow for a graduated income tax. Durkin said the real issue is a pension system that has swamped the government, and he said that must first be addressed. Durkin said for suburban households with 4 kids, the threshold of \$250,000 of income doesn't go all that far, and that's the cutoff for no increase in taxes. He also said there's nothing that says the highest earners have to stay in Illinois and pay higher taxes. He said in New York, when Governor Cuomo did something similar, it led to a \$2.7 billion deficit because the rich left. Asked about whether the current flat tax would help solve the problem, Durkin said had leadership in Springfield used tax increases over the past 10 years properly, the problem wouldn't be what exists now. He said there's a spending problem, and the revenue being brought in would be sufficient if the majority party would rein in spending. He said the plan should be to fix the pension plan and workers' compensation, and allow businesses to operate without micromanagement from government. He said promises to rein in property taxes has featured a bait and switch, with one part of the legislature passing one play, and the other body passing a different one they can't agree on. Durkin also talked about the change in relationship with Governor Pritzker versus his predecessor. Durkin did say Pritzker is a little more open with the numbers and he's personable. He said they've talked about the need for open communication, and they've been clear with each other on their stances. He mentioned they have a budget to negotiate before the end of May, and they need to work together even though they may not agree on everything. Durkin also said he has seven brothers, five of whom are practicing attorneys. And it turns out Chicago's Mayor Elect Lori Lightfoot worked for one of them in the U-S Attorney's office. He said the two of them also have shared White Sox tickets for a number of years. Durkin said Lightfoot did the right thing by going to Springfield for a visit so soon after her election. He said the Chicago mayor needs to explain the city's needs and become approachable. He said the legislature and the Mayor need to work together to solve some of the public education issues and other. He said he will try to help the Democrats and the Mayor provided they also try to help Republicans.

II. CRIME AND VIOLENCE

At Issue

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10 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program dealt with how Republicans in the state legislature are likely to hand the new realities in Springfield with the new Democratic Governor taking over from Republican Bruce Rauner. A key portion of JB Pritzker's agenda is getting a constitutional amendment passed to allow for a graduated income tax. Durkin said the real issue is a pension system that has swamped the government, and he said that must first be addressed. Asked about gun violence, Durkin said there's only so much that can be done in Springfield. He said he supported gun-dealer licensing a year ago because of his frustration with gun violence. He called it a way to slow down the trafficking of firearms to the wrong people. He said a lot of the issue goes to mental health, and you can't legislate for someone to seek therapy. Durkin said there obviously is a split among Chicago and the suburbs and downstate as to how far we can go with legislation. Durkin said Republicans have set up a caucus to see if there's a way to improve the "foid" system to check for criminal background or domestic abuse. He said he will work to do more to slow down the tragedies we've seen. He said gang members who use firearms for the wrong reason need to be held accountable.

At Issue

May 12, 2019

Guest: Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

10 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired eight days before Emanuel's 8-year tenure as mayor will end. This program looked back at his legacy and changes over his time in charge. Emanuel said he thinks the city has gotten its swagger back. He talked about investments made in the park system, mass transit, schools, police, fire, neighborhood services and the library system. He said at a time when people are in search of community, he said being mayor of Chicago is the most immediate and intimate form of government in people's lives. He said effective policing cannot be put on police alone. A solid education system plays a role in success. He said opportunity is key, replacing despair with hope. He talked about the Neighborhood Opportunity program where a business could get \$100,000 or more makes a difference. He said the internalization of what's possible changes when there's an active local coffee shop on the street rather than an empty storefront. He talked about faith and family, and if the love and faith found inside a church was instead on the street, that would be out the issues that exist. He also said when money was tight, he added funds to summer schools and after school programs. He said those investments paid off with record graduation rates. He said all these things play a role in public safety. Emanuel said over 100 years Chicago has had seven attempts at police reform. But he believes the latest will stand the test of time. This all in the wake of the Laquan McDonald shooting. He said for the first time there's judicial oversight, along with picking up body cameras, Tasers and investment in mental health. He said they've included officers in the changes, thus getting buy-in. He said they've added many new officers who also only know this new reality, and are not part of the John Burge beatings of the past.

At Issue

May 19, 2019

Guests: Arne Duncan, Former US Secretary of Education

Vivian Williams, Chicago Police Detective

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired one day before Mayor Lightfoot was sworn in. Duncan served as Education Secretary under President Barak Obama and before that spent eight years as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. He now is managing partner for Chicago CRED (Creating Real Economic Destiny). The organization is dedicated to recruiting men most likely to be involved in gun violence, transitioning them to legal jobs that would pay as much or more than the violence-plagued illegal economy. Duncan said Chicago is seven times more violent than New York and three and a half times more violent than Los Angeles. He said he's optimistic things will go in the right direction to change what current is robbing many young people of their childhood. He said they're working primarily with young men on the south and west sides aged 17 to 24. He said they're providing reasons to put down guns, to give them real hope, using life coaches, mentors and trauma coaches. Williams lives in the community and previously was assigned to Corliss High School. She saw children lose friends to violence, and watched others grow up then hit the streets and commit crimes. She now is liaison between the Chicago Police Department and Chicago CRED. She said the program works, and those involved no longer are part of the problem but instead part of the solution. Duncan said for these men, every structure in their life early-on, families, schools and non-profits failed them. So he said for them, this isn't a second chance, but a first chance. He said they are already leaders helping their communities, and he said they have a waiting list of those who want to be a part of Chicago CRED. Williams said many young men and women say they were born into gangs, that their parents were in gangs. She said the goal is to change the mindset and give them opportunities. She said one CRED member said not only did he leave the gang world, but so did his father. So he became a role model for his father. Duncan said you can't arrest or incarcerate your way out of this problem. He said nearly 1,000 people were in Springfield the past week saying this is a public good, and the state and city need to invest in these young men and give them a chance. Duncan said violence each year costs Chicago \$4 billion. He called that a terrible use of resources.

At Issue

May 26, 2019

Guest: Tom Dart, Sheriff of Cook County

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Dart has been sheriff since 2006, and runs the second largest county sheriff's office in the United States behind only Los Angeles. During the first three months of this year, nearly 1,200 fewer people were locked up in Cook County Jail versus the same period last year. Bail has been lowered or eliminated for many low level offenders. Dart said the system was broken before, especially for the mentally ill who were thrown in jail for silly reasons. He added many poor people just didn't have the money to post bail, and that was wrong. He said before bond changes, only four percent of those charged with retail theft were making bail. But he said more than 25 percent of those with gun offenses made bail. But Dart said all the decisions now are based on algorithms, and he doesn't like that because he said there needs to be human decisions. Dart said people caught with guns are getting out in numbers we've never seen before. He said in the last year and a half, there's been a big increase in people put on electronic monitoring for gun-related violence offenses, including murder. He said home monitoring only tells when someone leaves their house, but that it doesn't act like GPS. He said home confinement was designed only for non-violent offenders. Dart ended solitary confinement three years ago because of the damage such confinement can do to people. He said the number of assaults on his staff has reached an all-time low, and the number of inmate fights also has reached a new low. So he said the change away from solitary as punishment worked. Dart was asked about gun violence and the typical increase during summertime. Dart said his police force has jurisdiction throughout the county, including the City of Chicago. He said over the last six or seven years, the sheriff's office has been very engaged with the city in areas where gun offenses occur most often. Originally he put deputies in vehicles with Chicago police. He said three years ago, he changed that up so the efficacy could be better measured. He said in the areas his crews go, the highest levels of violence, there's been a dramatic drop in violence. He credits just having more bodies on the street and putting civilians into schools to work with teachers on truancy issues. He said they go to senior centers and block club meetings.

At Issue

June 16, 2019

Guest: Timothy Evans, Cook County Chief Judge

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program dealt with how the Cook County court system deals with people accused of violent crimes. Evans oversees more than 400 judges who handle more than a million cases a year. He's been elected as Chief Judge since 2001. He has moved the courts significantly in reforming how criminal defendants are treated throughout the system, including a decision a little over a year ago changing the bail system, so that those given cash bonds had bails they could afford. Evans said people are innocent until proven guilty. He said there are only two things to look at with someone arrested and awaiting trial: one is whether the person would be a danger while out free, and whether that person would come back to court when he or she is supposed to. Evans said the presumption is a person has the right to be free while awaiting trial. The goal, he said, is not to incarcerate someone simply because he doesn't have enough money. He said for someone who is a danger, judges issue a no bail order. Evans said before his order for the change, there were 267 people in jail based on no bail, but after, there were 2,167, but at the same time, the jail population was cut from 10,068, to 5,500, and did so without posing a danger to the public. He said less than 1 percent of those released during this time, of some 30,000, only 181 engaged in some type of violent activity. Asked about the legalization of recreational marijuana, Evans said he expects far fewer people incarcerated. He then talked about the various types of gun charges, that not all are alike. For example, he said you could have an elderly person who has a gun but forgot to apply for their FOID card. He said that person is not a clear and present danger, and that person is treated differently than an identified felon who is found with a gun. Asked about Tom Dart's complaints that too many people charged with serious gun crimes are released to home confinement with electronic monitoring. He said if they leave home, we know it, but don't know where they go. Evans said judges have the chance to exercise some compassion when someone is arrested. He said they look at the risks and probabilities but no one can be sure what someone will do while released after arrest. But he said through an algorithm called the public safety assessment tool, decisions are made. He said a higher risk who is not a clear and present danger might get total confinement through electronic monitoring, while lower risks are allowed to work during the day but must stay home at night. He said the model for the country is Washington DC, which uses electronic monitoring systems the same way Cook County does. Evans then talked about developing some new courts, specifically for domestic violence and prostitution. He said Cook County is one of the few in the country with an entire building dedicated to ending the cycle of violence that involves people imposing their will on others. He said getting those in prostitution are traumatized, and the goal is getting them away from pimps and johns. He said healing is the key for them, not punishment. He said they are expanding restorative justice courts to more areas of the county. He said in these courts, perpetrators get to see the impact of their act on the victim. He said these courts also help cut back on recidivism.

III. TRANSPORTATION

At Issue

June 30, 2019

Guest: James Derwinski, Chief Executive Officer Metra

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Metra is the commuter rail system for the entire Chicago area. Derwinski is looking forward to major transportation improvements thanks to a \$45 billion capital construction plan recently signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker. Derwinski has been the CEO for two years, and began his career as a railroad electrician and has moved up the Metra ranks starting in the mechanical department more than 20 years ago. He called the bill long overdue. He said they'll replace their coaches, more than half of which are more than 40 years old. He said 400 of their bridges are more than a century old and need upgrading. He said many of their stations need upgrades or rebuilds. He said they'll be deploying a new communication system so people can see when and where trains are going. He said thanks to sustainable financing with the new gas tax, they'll be able to take out bonds to fund improvements pretty quickly. He said they'll get more fuel-efficient locomotives using AC, thus improving the environmental footprint plus other benefits. He talked about a town hall meeting the previous week, showcasing the need for more availability for transportation for those in the south suburbs. He said Cook County Board did a study showing that residents most in need of public transportation are those with the least access to public transportation. He also said the study showed price point is an impediment to using Metra, along with an inability to transfer from other services to Metra due to the different fare structure. The study suggests a lower price point as a test and integrating a transferable fare. He said the big hurdle is getting the agencies to all agree, then to decide the most economically feasible way to make the technology work. Derwinski also talked about why some lines are more on-time than others, pointing to differences in automobile and freight train interference. He said some trains heading to Union Station only have a couple tracks to choose from based on number of cars on that train. He said every day there are challenges, many of which are out of their control. He said Metra owns all the equipment for the BNSF line, but the switches and lines are run by Amtrak. There are similar circumstances for other lines. On the topic of safety, he talked about the addition of PTC (positive train control) and the learning curve involved in implementation. For example, he said PTC trains operate differently through work zones than perhaps other trains. Derwinski said Metra currently is negotiation with Amtrak for a new lease agreement at Union Station. He said they've offered to take over the operation of Union Station but that hasn't been well received. He said if Illinois dollars are being invested to upgrade Union Station with hundreds of millions of dollars, then Illinois taxpayers deserve some ownership.

IV. NEIGHBORHOOD AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

April 14, 2019

Guests: Raymond Lopez, Chicago Alderman 15th Ward

Walter Burnett, Chicago Alderman 27th Ward

Maria Hadden, Chicago Alderman-Elect 49th Ward

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program centered on the upcoming changes in the Chicago City Council following the recent election. Three sitting aldermen were defeated in the first round. One of those was Joe Moore, one of the founders of the Progressive Caucus, ousted by political activist Maria Hadden, the founder of a non-profit called Our City Our Voice. Lopez won for a second term, and Burnett has been an alderman since 1995. The new council will have 12 new members out of 50. Hadden said she decided to run because Chicago has many large problems that incumbents have failed to fix. She said people are tired of the same old answers to the problems we have. Lopez said sometimes aldermen collectively do not use their power fully, giving up control to outside forces. Burnett said getting elected is all about taking care of their individual ward. He said that often leads to competition among aldermen because resources are limited. He also said there will be a big learning curve because aldermen will be working with a new mayor. He said half of constituents only care about their neighborhood and not about the general issues. He said having been around awhile helps because of relationships need to be built. He said to gain leverage for government money, you need relationship both internally and externally, from local department heads to leaders at the state level. With the new mayor, Burnett said most aldermen will try to work with her. While they'll disagree of some things, they'll all try to do what's best for the city. He hopes Lori Lightfoot comes in with the attitude of teamwork. He said he learned some things from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, but he also learned from the aldermen. Burnett said wards are not homogeneous either. He said the 27th Ward has eight communities, and they're all very different. Hadden said she appreciates hearing Burnett's advice. She said one of her campaign's theme was about both her ward, and issues facing the city in general. She said she's looking for collaborative leadership, whether talking about housing affordability, police accountability and community safety. She said most of these issues will not be solve by one alderman. Lopez talked about the difficulty of getting to the end result, and what exactly the governmental body is responsible for. He said people look to the city council regarding schools, to fund them properly, to have counselors in each school, etc. But he said the council is not responsible for school funding, but they are responsible for funding fire and police and other services. He said people need to know the difference between tax dollars that go toward city services, versus tax increases for schools. Burnett added that funding will be tied to the upcoming census, and the importance of keeping people in the city, and having more people move in. He said money is the key toward getting new parks, new playgrounds, new lights and other needs for the neighborhoods. He said all may need to sacrifice to work toward balancing the budget.

At Issue

May 5, 2019

Guest: Fritz Kaegi, Cook County Assessor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Kaegi last year won the Democratic primary for Cook County Assessor, then was basically unchallenged to take over a role previously held by Joseph Berrios. Kaegi's first executive order mentioned the culture of the office and changes in staffing. Kaegi said his predecessor had family members on the payroll, so he said he changed things up by bringing in professionals. He said he also met with analysts whom he said never had met with the assessor previously. He also said there were boxes piled high full of papers for appeals, filed in the order received. He said 600 tons of boxes were removed and now the plan is to streamline what had been antiquated processes and too many appeals bogging down employees who could be getting much more done. He said people have embraced his values of ethics, transparency and fairness. He said other parts of the country got that as a matter of routine. He said people should care about the code of conduct in the department because people need to know both their assessments and everyone else's assessments are fair. He said until now there has been a legacy of distrust. He said part of the code is that people cannot assess the property of family members. Kaegi said previously many assessments had no visible relationship with market value. He said market value is the only way to show you're not favoring some folks over others. Kaegi gave an example, saying personal storage units were valued at six times their operating income, but market values would say 25-30 times that income. He said when one small group pays less, everyone else pays more. He said in the neighborhoods and looking at small rental properties, he said some have been over-weighted, leading to higher rents. He said there is much more data on the higher-end, expensive properties, but he said they still lack enough information on commercial properties. He said they've now released to the public their formula line by line. Kaegi then talked about assessments his department so far has redone. He said previously many assessments were artificially low and now he's operating according to the law. He said that has meant an adjustment because no-one really understood the system. The key, he said, is the change in assessment does not necessarily mean taxes will go up in the same proportion. Because it is simply a subset of the total assessed value in an area, so the actual share may not rise the same amount. He said he's pursuing a data bill in Springfield to add to predictability for everyone. He said the data modernization bill adopts a system currently in 17 other states, where commercial property owners submit to the assessor on the front end, their income and expense information. He said the department could then aggregate all the income, expenses and occupancy rates, so everyone can see what's there, and what to expect. He said there would be more certainty, predictability and accuracy. He said the data currently is virtually non-existent. He said this will help investors and buyers. He said the bill already has passed the Senate and it now sits with the Illinois House. Kaegi said this impacts schools and any governing body that receives property taxes. He also said when there's uncertainty for businesses, it leads to vacancies. He also said communities are hurt when there are vacancies, and some try to use vacancies to hold taxes down, then sell the property for big gains. He said where there are commercial vacancies, that means fewer sales taxes, etc., thus hurting neighborhoods.

At Issue

May 12, 2019

Guest: Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

10 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired eight days before Emanuel's 8-year tenure as mayor will end. This program looked back at his legacy and changes over his time in charge. Emanuel said he thinks the city has gotten its swagger back. He talked about investments made in the park system, mass transit, schools, police, fire, neighborhood services and the library system. He said at a time when people are in search of community, he said being mayor of Chicago is the most immediate and intimate form of government in people's lives. He said effective policing cannot be put on police alone. A solid education system plays a role in success. He said opportunity is key, replacing despair with hope. He talked about the Neighborhood Opportunity program where a business could get \$100,000 or more makes a difference. He said the internalization of what's possible changes when there's an active local coffee shop on the street rather than an empty storefront. He talked about faith and family, and if the love and faith found inside a church was instead on the street, that would be out the issues that exist. He also said when money was tight, he added funds to summer schools and after school programs. He said those investments paid off with record graduation rates. He said all these things play a role in public safety. He also talked about the pension crisis. Emanuel said the structural budget is under control and corporate relocations have been in Chicago's favor. He said stopped the bleeding for the pension issue, but that's all he did. He said many cities across the state face the issue of police and fire pensions among others. He would like a state constitutional change moving all the police and fire pensions with the state under one consolidated fund. He said he would then allow the first \$100,000 annually be received tax free, but then the income above that amount would be taxes. He said balance sheets would then dramatically improve, but also guarantee benefits without overburdening homeowners.

At Issue

June 2, 2019

Guest: Melissa Conyears-Ervin, Chicago City Treasurer

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Conyears-Ervin recently won her election by defeating former Alderman Ameya Pawar in a runoff. She has a degree in finance and Masters in business administration. She is African American, and one of three women of color in the top elected positions in Chicago along with the new mayor and clerk Susana Mendoza. She said that shows just how far Chicago has progressed. She's from the West Side of Chicago and said she's grateful to be in position to help the underserved communities of the city. She said she also wants to encourage working mothers, and she made a point of taking her young daughter with her throughout the campaign. She said she believes she was the first treasurer to attend a city council meeting, and said that's important because if she's handling the portfolio of taxpayers' dollars, she needs to be in the know about city business, and that's where the business is conducted. She said a week and a half into the job, there's no time for a learning curve. She said the office already has earned \$92 million on the city's \$8.5 billion dollars of taxpayer money. Asked about what needs changing in the Treasurer's office, she said a catalyst fund had been started by her predecessor, but no investments in underserved communities had yet taken place. She said the process to roll out investments is underway. She said the city has contributed \$100 million to the fund, and the goal is to find other donors for the fund. She also said the city deposits money with 17 different municipal depositories. She said that does not currently include credit unions, but they're the ones that serve as banks for underserved communities. So she'd like to get some involved, and said like banks many are secured and insured so the money would be protected. Conyears-Ervin then discussed public education about money matters. She the Bank One program is for people who are "unbanked or under banked." But she said many don't know anything about it. So she wants their depositories to help market the program and be inviting for the program. She said many residents cash checks at currency exchanges or use payday loans. She said those people need help, learning about access and getting exorbitant fees returned to households. She said the program also helps people learn about how to improve credit scores and acquire mortgages. She also said she's open minded about the city creating its own bank, but she said it's important to look at the root cause why that's even a topic. She said she's met with leaders of the municipal depositories to make clear her expectations. She said the city has a choice where to put its money, and will leverage the deposit of tax dollars to get what the city needs to get done.

At Issue

June 23, 2019

Guest: Michael Kelly, General Superintendent Chicago Park District

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Kelly has been in charge of the Chicago Park District since 2011, and has been with the district since 2003. The urban park system runs on a \$450 million budget, and is on the front lines in efforts to keep young people safe for the summer. Kelly said Summer For Change is a coordinated effort involving police, the schools and libraries to keep kids safe with positive things to do and paying them a stipend. Currently 400 kids are in the program. Kelly said the park district's summer camps are involved, training counselors in leadership, trauma and financial literacy. Kelly said many more kids will want to get involved, and the park district is ready for them. Summer camp, he said involves tens of thousands of kids. He said they also have specialty camps for teens, seniors and 3-6 year olds. He said the park district has 49 outdoor pools and that's a major activity along with arts and crafts, sports and field trips. He said the arts are just as important as physical activity, exposing campers to city's cultural centers. He said they've just started something called platforms, featuring stages painted bright yellow in 11 parks, and it becomes a vehicle for people to use. They can do a play, dance or anything. He called it a subtle way to invite the arts into the parks. He also talked about nights out in the park, an award winning program now in its sixth year, meant to be community building. They include local music talent, or movies in the parks, or Shakespeare in the park, etc. The goal, he said, was turning the parks into a place for families to utilize as a resource. They do charge for camps, but at a rate of only \$1 to \$3.50 per hour. But he said they give out \$2 million worth of scholarship, and also have given 600 summer passes to religious, community and school leaders they could hand out to any child for free participation. He also said they will not turn any child away due to an inability to pay. He talked about dedicating 30 minutes each day of camp to reading. They've also gotten what he called true junk food out of vending machines. He said the sugary, high fat and salty products have been removed. Kelly said like public schools, they've also created safe passage routes to get children to and from the parks. He said the program is in its third year, and gets community members involved. He also talked about collaborative efforts with other city agencies and how well they work together.

V. HEALTH CARE

At Issue

April 28, 2019

Guest: Lauren Underwood, Congressman 14th District

25 minutes out of 30 minute program

Underwood is a member of the freshman class of the new Congress. At the time of the program, she had just surpassed 100 days in office. Underwood is a Democrat from the western suburbs who won in an area that traditionally has been a Republican stronghold. She is a nurse, and is sponsoring a House bill to solidify federal funding for medical research. She talked about a crisis in the affordability of prescription drugs, which impacts not only seniors but diabetic children and others. She said it has been a long time since Democrats have been in the majority, so many health related issues were taken off the table. But she said they don't want to rush to a solution that has unintended consequences such as stifling innovation. She said companies are investing in research but so are taxpayers. While companies say they need to recoup their investment, Underwood said "ok, what about us," meaning the government. She said there must be direct price negotiation between Medicare and the pharmaceutical companies. She also said there must be incentives for individuals to be thoughtful consumers. She said generics have certain challenges, but chronic diseases that require maintenance medication must become cheaper. She also said specialty drugs need to be addressed in terms of innovation, supply chain and price. Asked about healthcare in general, she said pre-existing condition coverage has been under attack for years. She said Republicans are trying to roll back protection and sabotage ability to get treatment at affordable prices. And she said the Trump Administration has been pushing "junk insurance" plans that are not required to cover what typically comes with full coverage. Originally these plans were only allowed for three months on a temporary basis, but Republicans are allowing them to last for three years. She said full disclosure is needed. She said they have a bill now to lower out of pocket cost for lower income citizens, saying no one would have to pay more than 8.5 percent of their adjusted gross income to buy a full plan. She said this would impact 20 million Americans. She said the House likely will pass these bills, but she said the American people to speak out and let their feelings be known. Underwood also said she is vice-chair of the Committee on Homeland Security, and she said health security is an important area that previously did not get much attention in the House. She's also on the Veteran's Affairs committee, which also has healthcare, mental health and what she called a suicide epidemic. She also said her district was hard hit by the new tax law and specifically the \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local taxes. She and Representative Sean Casten are introducing a bill to lift the cap to \$15,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for married couples and indexed to inflation. She also talked about the need for workers to get more protection for equal pay. She said people working for a single company with multiple locations, she wants to ensure that those with similar qualifications but at different locations, would still be guaranteed the same pay. The bill would also allow for class action opportunities. She said pay discrimination and wage variability impacts many, and is not just a gender issue. Underwood also gave her opinion on the recent Mueller report on Russian involvement in the last presidential election.

VI. VOTER INFORMATION

At Issue

April 28, 2019

Guest: Lauren Underwood, Congressman 14th District

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Underwood is a member of the freshman class of the new Congress. At the time of the program, she had just surpassed 100 days in office. Underwood is a Democrat from the western suburbs who won in an area that traditionally has been a Republican stronghold. She said her district was hard hit by the new tax law and specifically the \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local taxes. She and Representative Sean Casten are introducing a bill to lift the cap to \$15,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for married couples and indexed to inflation. She also talked about the need for workers to get more protection for equal pay. She said people working for a single company with multiple locations, she wants to ensure that those with similar qualifications but at different locations, would still be guaranteed the same pay. The bill would also allow for class action opportunities. She said pay discrimination and wage variability impacts many, and is not just a gender issue. Underwood also gave her opinion on the recent Mueller report on Russian involvement in the last presidential election. When asked if President Trump should be impeached, she said she'd first like to see the un-redacted version of the report, and the American people need to weigh in.

VII. ENVIRONMENT

At Issue

June 9, 2019

Guests: Kay Stepkin, Founder National Vegetarian Museum

Robin O'Harrow, Owner Munch Restaurant in Oak Park

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This discussion centered on the growing movement of avoiding meat and living a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle. O'Harrow said cooking without meat helps the environmental footprint. Stepkin originally opened The Bread Shop in 1971 and advertised it as the first vegetarian restaurant in Chicago. She said the vegetarian movement started slowly, but in the past decade it has exploded. She said the museum has put out a list of more than 50 such restaurants in the Chicago area. O'Harrow said the word vegan has been supplanted by "plant based," and said people now are looking for healthy alternatives. She referred to rooftop gardens and hydroponic farms in warehouse buildings, making Chicago a great place to be vegan. Stepkin talked about the diversity locally, including an African American restaurant, several Mexican vegan restaurants, and many Indian restaurants that are strictly vegetarian. She said many come to her restaurant because of health problems, and have different stories about why they needed to get healthier. She said about 10 percent of her customers are vegan, but most just want to get healthier. She said you don't have to eat meat at every meal. Stepkin said the growth among vegetarians has come among younger people, and she thinks we're on the verge of a major explosion. She said a few years ago, if you didn't go to a vegetarian restaurant, you couldn't find a similar meal. Now, she said most restaurants have vegetarian options. They also talked about the growth of companies such as Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, and more and more products on the shelves of grocery stores. O'Harrow said whatever folks do for a healthier lifestyle is a great trend. Fill-in host Terry Keshner mentioned that fast food restaurants now include plant based foods. Stepkin said she prefers homemade foods and doesn't know the nutritional value of those products, and said it is possible to be a junk-food vegan. Asked about any detriments of a plant based diet, Stepkin said there is none. She said many take vitamin B12 now because our diets are so antiseptic. She said it used to be there'd be a little dirt in food, and that's where B12 came from. She also said there are plenty of products available to get protein. O'Harrow said in today's world of factory farms, there are no truly humanely raised animals for food. She said cows don't see bulls, or has a calf but doesn't get to fulfill her motherly instincts. She said male calves are put in crates for veal, keeping them from exercising to keep their meat more pink and tender. Stepkin talked about the environmental advantage of a plant based diet. She said about 30 percent of land mass is taken by factory farming or crops intended for animals. She said there is deforestation, in some places illegally, destroying the environment. She talked about water contamination, and the smell of factory farms you can smell miles away. And Keshner mentioned bovine flatulence means more methane emissions. As for junk food, they talked about Oreos and Thin Mints being vegan. But Stepkin also mentioned you can make homemade cookies made from whole grains and sweetened with dates or maple syrup rather than sugar.

VIII. SCHOOL REFORM AND EDUCATION

At Issue

May 12, 2019

Guest: Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

10 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program aired eight days before Emanuel's 8-year tenure as mayor will end. This program looked back and his legacy and changes over his time in charge. Emanuel said he thinks the city has gotten its swagger back. He talked about investments made in the park system, mass transit, schools, police, fire, neighborhood services and the library system. He said at a time when people are in search of community, he said being mayor of Chicago is the most immediate and intimate form of government in people's lives. He said effective policing cannot be put on police alone. A solid education system plays a role in success. He said opportunity is key, replacing despair with hope. He talked about faith and family, and if the love and faith found inside a church was instead on the street, that would be out the issues that exist. He also said when money was tight, he added funds to summer schools and after school programs. He said those investments paid off with record graduation rates. He said all these things play a role in public safety.