

UTCC VOICE

The newsletter of the United Taxidrivers Community Council

Volume 4

May 2011

Issue 1

Victim and Offender Reconciliation

By Michael McConnell, AFSC Regional Director

The recent release of Michael Jackson from prison after serving approximately six years of a 15-year sentence for second degree murder, raises questions of next steps.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) believes that several issues or steps emerge. First, the recognition that white people have privileges in this society that often create opportunities for early release that people of color seldom can access. Second, it propels all of us to redouble our efforts to create a community environment in which cab drivers, who are most directly affected by this type of violence, can live in peace and dignity, without intimidation or the threat of violence or economic reprisals. AFSC believes that community recognition and affirmation of the civil and human rights of each person and all peoples is an essential part of creating such an environment.

Third, we need to support people who have committed acts of violence to understand the physical, emotional, cultural, spiritual, and economic consequences of the harm they have caused. A large part of that is to accept responsibility for their actions; and to rebuild their lives in ways that create strong and positive ties to the larger community, whether or not they are incarcerated. Fourth, we believe that we should support people who commit acts of violence to take steps to repair or atone for the harm they have caused, with such steps being determined in a way that includes the input of the victim, the offender, and the larger community. Such acts of repair should cause no further harm or destruction, psychologically or otherwise, to offenders or anyone else. Fifth, create opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders and foster the establishment of right relationships between them in the wake of the harm.

A Talk with Alderman Beale

By Bill Burns and Diane Santucci

Alderman Anthony A. Beale is the new head of the Transportation Committee for the City Council of the City of Chicago. This conversation with him took place on April 5th 2011.

Bill Burns: Good afternoon Ald. Beale my name is Bill Burns. I am on the Steering Committee for the United Taxi Drivers Community Council (U.T.C.C.). With me is Diane Santucci who is also on the Steering Committee for U.T.C.C.. Diane and I are reporters for the U.T.C.C. Voice newspaper, which serves the taxi drivers of the city of Chicago. Thank you for allowing us to meet with you in your Ward Office (the 9TH, on 112 Pl. on the South Side).

Alderman Beale, you are the new head of the Transportation Committee within the Chicago City Council. Could you explain to our readers what the Transportation Committee does, and what your responsibilities are as the chairman

CONT. ON PAGE 7

Get involved in the struggle against unjust fees & taxes!

Join the fight for rights, respect & human dignity!

CALL UTCC: 773-342-8822

INSIDE...

| | |
|--|---|
| BEING A PROUD CHICAGO CAB DRIVER | 3 |
| QUICK QUOTES ABOUT THE MAYOR | 5 |

ENSEMBLE ON PEUT TOUT FAIRE



By Mohammed Ameen Alwatik

Depuis 3 ans que l'organisation UTCC est pour non seulement L'interet des chauffeurs et aussi pour les protégés afin d'assurer leur avenir pour cela on doit etre unis pour traverser les obstacles, soit civil ou materiels. UTCC vous offres un avocat gratuitement seulement 3 fois par an d'utilisation a 400 W Superior et aussi une carte de remplacement le permet de conduire. (bond card)

How one man's plight changed the Middle East

By Fayez Khozindar

The success of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolution has inspired other nations throughout the Middle East to change their future.

The events in the Middle East were triggered by the story of Muhammad Bouazizi from Tunisia. Bouazizi was unable to find a job after college so he sold vegetables on the street to provide income for himself and his family. He was not able to make a reasonable income because of the hostile actions of Tunisian officials who confiscated his cart, claiming he had no license to sell vegetables. After taking his cart, the officials further abused Bouazizi by attacking him physically and insulting him.

On December 17th, Bouazizi put an end to his misery and humiliation when he stood in the town square, doused himself in gasoline, and set himself on fire. By the time he died of his injuries on January 4th, protests over his fate and the treatment he received had escalated to a boiling point. The public related to Bouazizi's struggle and by January 14th, the president of Tunisia was ousted by an angry and frustrated public, which had been oppressed for decades.

Within a week, the youth of Egypt took to the streets for 19 days and brought down the Egyptian government. These successful actions have lead to widespread direct action in countries such as Libya, Yemen, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, and Syria.

What we can learn from these revolutions throughout the Middle East is that ordinary people can take direct control over the future of their lives.

The revolutions in the Middle East reflects an international struggle for justice. However examples

CONT. ON PAGE 3



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY ALLY

Being a Proud Chicago Cab Driver

We are Chicago Cab Drivers.

It is something we can feel very proud of.

By Bill Burns

We make our living with our own two hands. In our hands we grip the steering wheel of our taxi softly but firmly. In the same way that we would hold someone that we cared about. For it is with our skill, with this taxi, that our life depends. In our hands we feel every vibration of the cab. Knowing what is good and what is bad in the way our taxi moves. Sometimes, when each of us, with great skill glides through heavy traffic, and makes a move that gets us to the fare then 'baby' it is a high and a sense of power, and we say to our selves 'damn man' I am good at what I do!

As we drive our taxi our ears are focused on all the sounds that we can hear. What are the moans and groans of the taxi? Is the taxi running okay? We listen to the sound of the engine and know when it is powerful. The sounds of the street we hear. Where is the sound of the siren coming from? Is the police officer after me or someone else? Do we not hear the sound of another car coming up on us even when we do not see them in our mirror?

It is with our eyes that we are constantly reading the street. The smallest movements of cars tell us what they are going to do. We can feel when another car is floating and the driver is not sure which way he or she is going, and so our hand is prepared to use the horn and we get around that guy. Our eyes as we look over the street see, in front, and behind, near and far, and as we read the traffic we do so with an understanding based on the experience of many, many hours of driving. We are educated persons!

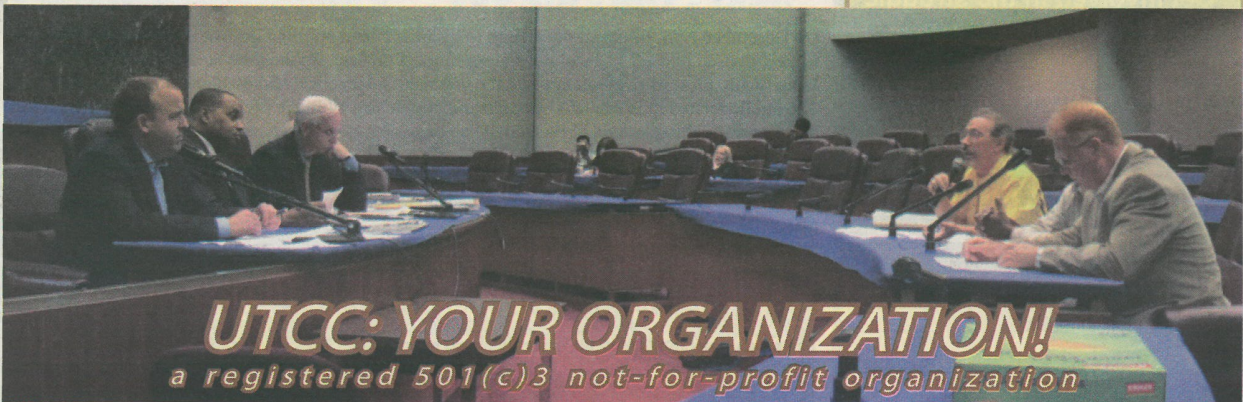
Chicago is a town that will throw all kinds of weather at you. Are we prepared for heat, snow, ice, fog, heavy rain or high winds? We have to be. When it is hot we are constantly watching are heat gauge. Will this taxi overheat? Am I smelling the sweet smell of coolant overflowing? Lots of snow means that we are constantly watching the street. Is the snow high? How high? Dry or wet How is the taxi moving through it? What do I need to do to keep from getting stuck? High winds and rain and sometimes it is all that we can do to keep the taxi on the road.

At the end of the day we are tired and worn out because we have done all that we can do to be safe. This we have done. We have arrived home safely to those we love because we learn and we have belief in our ability to drive this taxi and we are good at it.

Man sometimes when we are 'crusin' looking for fares we know when a person wants a cab before they do. We slow down and help them make up there mind. When they get in lots of us of say, "How are you doing?" No response and you listen to sounds in the back. Is this person just about business or do I need to hear the sounds that might tell me a problem? When you get a conversation going with a passenger it is a good thing. I can learn things about their world and they learn about mine. There is a relationship that gets built and it can help my tip. It is a good thing when you get a groove going with the passenger as the day passes more quickly.

But sometimes we get people in the cab who are bound and determined to be prejudiced. It takes all our patience not to go in the back and slap the crap out of them. We do not because we have people who care about us and we about them. We have become skilled at dealing with all kinds of people from the stickup man, the drunk, the troubled person, the young and silly, the person needing to talk, and the person who acts like we do not exist. We have immense patience with people and we have a great ability to learn hour by hour and day by day because we are cab drivers and this we do to survive.

**WE ARE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE
AND OUR ABILITY TO GO FORWARD.
WE ARE CHICAGO TAXI DRIVERS!**



UTCC: YOUR ORGANIZATION!
a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization

UTCC VOICE

UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

OUR VISION

TO ORGANIZE AND UNIFY ALL LICENSED CHAUFFEURS IN THE CHICAGO AREA, SO WE CAN COLLECTIVELY OVERCOME OPPRESSION AND ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

WRITERS

FAYEZ KHOZINDAR
BILL BURNS
MOHAMMED AMEEN ALWATIK
DIANE SANTUCCI

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

MICHAEL MCCONNELL
ALDERMAN BEALE

EDITOR

CHRIS CHANDLER

LAYOUT

SABRINA CRAIG

INFO@GOUTCC.ORG / 773-342-UTCC
UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2040 N MILWAUKEE, 2ND FL, CHICAGO, IL 60647

**WE WELCOME YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS,
FEEDBACK, AND LETTERS!**

Editorial

One Man's Plight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The leading article in this issue of UTCC Voice is an interview with Ald. Anthony Beale where he articulates the importance of unity for the drivers and their groups in order to have a seat at the table. They all should be under one umbrella organization.

We all agree that the tasks ahead of us are challenging and we have no doubt that through unity they will be achieved. The UTCC represent a viable organization for cabdrivers based on the principle of inclusion, a democratic decision-making process, a working relationship with officials and regulators, and a proven track record of success.

We at UTCC have a policy of searching for solutions to systematic problems rather than individual solutions. We put an emphasis on fighting for our human rights, in addition to our workers rights. We are fighting to achieve justice, dignity and respect for all taxi drivers.

And for those of you who don't know, UTCC provide the following benefits:

- UTCC membership card – an ID with your picture on it.
- One year Traffic Bond Card: an alternative to giving up your driver's license.
- UTCC T-Shirt
- 30 Compliment Cards.
- Ticket Tracking Service.
- UTCC Legal Service plan: A lawyer will handle up to 3 tickets (400 W. Superior) for a co-pay of \$20.00 (trial fees are \$75.00).
- And soon we will provide a \$10,000.00 life insurance and AD&D for about \$2.80 per month.

If you think this is a good thing to have, please drop us a line or call us because we need your feedback. For all of the above, we urge all of you, one and all, to join the UTCC, because it can be the answer for all of us. So, join the family, your family.

And remember to be respectable and professional - don't forget to use your signal.

Fayez Khozindar
Chairman, UTCC

Voice, May 2011



On December 10th 2009, the workers staged a rally outside of the Bank of America in downtown Chicago. Of the 240 workers, only 40 went to the rally, but they had more than 200 supporters from solidarity organizations. The UTCC showed their solidarity by transporting the workers to the rally and back to the factory to continue its occupation.

exist here in Chicago as well.

The workers of Republic Windows and Door learned that they no longer had jobs and that their factory would be relocated. Their contract stated that they were required 60 days notice of termination of employment and they would receive severance and vacation pay. They were not given such notice, and were released immediately.

The workers of the factory had a meeting and decided that this type of treatment was unacceptable. 240 mostly Latino and African American workers occupied the factory an event that quickly became international news.

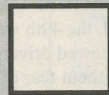
Support for the Republic Windows and Door workers came from a litany of groups including other unions and human rights organizations. They won support from Barack Obama, Jesse Jackson, and the Rainbow PUSH coalition.

While this was happening, an attorney was meeting with the leaders of Republic Windows and Doors and arranged a \$2 million settlement to be paid out to the workers.

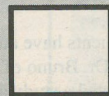
This is an example of the working class community in Chicago taking action against the oppressive powers operating against them and coming out victorious.

We must draw from these instances of working class struggle as an inspiration for what is possible in the cab driving community. It is a historic era when taxi drivers can rise up and decide that they have had enough abuse and maltreatment. Drivers can have their own representation and they can have a seat at the table to negotiate the rules and the laws that affect their jobs, their fares, and subsequently their lives.

Taxi Drivers!!!



Do nothing Join UTCC



THE U.T.C.C. VOICE

THE VOICE is our newspaper. There will be stories about the issues we face together. The taxes and fines that the City lays on us. Should we have a meter increase? How can we get fairness at 400 W. Superior? The issues are so very many to count. It's important that we talk about them so that we know what drivers' feelings are on the many issues. So that when we of U.T.C.C. have a meeting with the City Of Chicago Commissioners, or Alderman Beale, who is head of the Transportation Committee, we say to them what drivers want, and we report back to you what happened.

IN THE PAGES OF THE VOICE NEWSPAPER WILL BE YOUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS. IT IS YOU THAT WILL MAKE THIS NEWSPAPER, THE VOICE, HAPPEN.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. WRITE AN ARTICLE IN YOUR LANGUAGE OR IN ENGLISH.

Does it have to be about being a cab driver? No! The Voice newspaper is also about who we are as people. We are taxi drivers, but we are also family members. We have parents, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. Many taxi drivers send monies back to family members. Tell the stories of those we love. The people that we help when we drive our taxis.

2. WE ARE IMMIGRANTS. Tell the story about how you came to this country of the United States, and how and why. What is it like to not know the language or customs well? How have you been treated? What do you like or dislike about this country? What do you miss about your land? We come from all over the world. As global travelers and Global

Citizens what do we feel and think when we get someone from another country in our taxi? Don't taxi drivers often know what it is like to be a stranger in a strange land?

3. We are more than taxi drivers. We ARE ALSO COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF CHICAGO. What are the issues in your neighborhood? Is your neighborhood safe? What are the schools like? What are important events that are happening in your neighborhood? They might be parades, deaths, marriages etc. WE SEEK TO MAKE THE VOICE A COMMUNITY PAPER AS WELL AS A TAXI DRIVER PAPER. TELLING ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES OF CHICAGO. As a citizen of Chicago, as a cab driver we talk to a whole lot of folks. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE?

4. If you do not want to write an article please let someone write a PROFILE or INTERVIEW you about your life. YOU HAVE SEEN MUCH AND HAVE MUCH TO SAY. It could be a friend or relative that could tell your story.

SPEAK YOUR MIND SAY YOUR HEART. THE VOICE WILL TELL IT!

If you would like to get in touch with us and be a part of the grand enterprise that is THE VOICE NEWSPAPER please contact us at:

BILL BURNS PHONE 773-593-3379
E-MAIL CHICORY10@GMAIL.COM



The UTCC is a taxi driver membership based organization promoting social and political change regarding the treatment of taxi drivers. The driving principal behind our organization is the need to unite all cabdrivers in the struggle for justice in the cab driving community.

When taxi drivers are united, we have a greater capacity to influence change in our lives. One driver can fight their case at 400 Superior and win, without affecting any great change. However 1000 cab drivers demanding justice at 400 Superior can change systemic flaws in the legal system and potentially create tangible change in the administrative legal process.

The UTCC is an organization that is internally governed by the democratic process. Our members drive the issues that we take up, and all members have the potential to become leaders within the organization. IF UTCC members are not happy with the leadership, they have an opportunity to use the democratic process and vote for new leadership.

Taxi drivers are regularly treated unfairly by an unjust system. Because it is the system itself that is flawed, change can only come from drivers uniting and demanding justice.

The UTCC has accomplished historic successes in the taxi industry. We fought for Muslim drivers civil rights at O'Hare when drivers were being ticketed while they stopped to pray. We stood up against violence in the work place and convinced the state attorneys to implement safety placards into all cabs. We persuaded the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection to incorporate the safety placard into the fare sheet and it is now installed in every taxi in the city of Chicago.

We have ended the taxi parking bans on business streets in many north side wards including the 50th ward, the 49th ward, and the 46th ward. This has allowed drivers to park closer to their homes without fear of receiving tickets overnight.

Our accomplishments have attracted attention from academia. Dr. Bruno of the University of Illinois conducted a study along with the UTCC titled Driven Into Poverty. Quantitative data was collected detailing what kind of wages drivers earned, how many hours they worked, and the number of incidences of violence in the workplace.

We are proud of these accomplishments, but we know that there is much more work to be done.

What is the U.T.C.C.?

By Fayez Khozindar

We want drivers to feel empowered and to feel that they are connected with the broader taxi driving community.

We offer our members discounted legal services at 400 W Superior. It is \$20 dollars for a general disposition or settlement and it is \$75 for a hearing. We are also able to provide our drivers with a bond card.

We urge all cabdrivers to join us in the struggle for a better life. Together we can create changes that are beneficial to not only our members, but to all cabdrivers in the city of Chicago.

Our office is located at 2040 N Milwaukee. We encourage you to stop by if you have concerns about any issues facing the taxi community. We ask that when you join that you volunteer for at least 1 hour a week or 1 hour a month, whatever time you can spare. Our goal is to create an active membership that is accountable to each other and committed to the cause.

We look forward to meeting you and working together to bring positive changes in the lives of taxi drivers throughout the city.

Quick Quotes About the New Mayor

Ahmed Askar



"I hope that the Mayor understands that we are suffering. I hope the mayor understands that we have the cheapest fare in the country. I hope he works to improve our situation."

Mirona Iovna

"I would like the credit card fee that we pay to be canceled. I would like for the mayor to impose the credit card fee on the cab companies instead."

David Tafreshing

"The Mayor should sit and listen to cabdrivers and help solve the problems we are facing"



Khalid Butt

"We are hoping for some positive changes from the new mayor. We as a nation are going through tough times right now and the taxi industry is part of that. We hope that the mayor listens to us and helps come up with solutions for our struggles."

Ioanverodai

"I would like there to be more protection from all of the taxes we have to pay. There are so many with the airport taxes, the credit card fees, and taxes on our lease. I would like the Mayor to relieve us from these taxes."

Mamatou Sbah

"I would like for the Mayor to treat us with respect. No-body gives us any respect. We have no rights with the police, we have no rights with the passengers, we have no rights with anyone."



Kris Sahoo

"We expect some changes from the new mayor. We expect him to listen to the taxi community and enact a fare increase."



MR. EMANUEL SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION:

1. Fire or retire the old commissioner.
2. Appoint a TAXI-INDUSTRY-ONLY commissioner who is cab driver/owner sensitive, and works for the benefit of the cab industry.
3. \$4 airport departure tax per load goes to health insurance (most cabbies can't afford in the first place as cab drivers).
4. End medallion auctioning and artificially high prices of medallions that keep individuals out and seduce owner/operators to sell out in favor of the big fleet owners.
5. Request that the City Council pass immediately if not sooner, an EMERGENCY rate increase that reflects today's standard of living.
6. Change the city law that results in the cab drivers working in a sweat shop on wheels.

By: Wolfgang Weiss

Drivers Beware!!!

This article is just a warning to other drivers to be careful when paying for parking with a credit card.

One day I was driving in down town Chicago looking for parking when I found a spot on the street. I went to the pay-box and did the usual, look for coins or better yet, use a credit card. I paid \$6.00 for two hours of parking which is a standard rate. However a few days later I received my bank statement and I noticed that the parking company had charged my account \$24.00 instead of \$6.00.

So, my sisters and brothers please be careful when you use your credit cards anywhere and always keep your receipts because you never know when you will need them to request a refund. Before I leave you in peace, I would like to remind you to use your signal all the time.

We Have Feelings

We have so many feelings when we are driving our taxi. Things that we would like to say and express.

The hours are so very long. Hour after hour and day after day we climb behind the wheel and go forward to get that next fare. It is so hard to get a fare in mid afternoon after having eaten, and it is very hot, and it is bumper to bumper going to the airport, and somehow, somehow we have to stay awake in the cab. We have all had times when we are so very tired but we have to keep pushing to get those monies.

What's the deal with the monies? Tax after tax and gas prices going through the roof. Stupid and unreasonable tickets from the City of Chicago. Seems like everyone has just decided that they can put their greedy hands in our back pocket. We have every right to be angry and we will say what needs to be said and action can be taken.

Monies are a funny thing. In our job we learn a lot about people and their relationship to money. Those who have a lot of money often have their fists so very tight. The poor or working person is often the best tipper. We work so hard for our money but I know that many of us will give someone, who has little, a break when we can. I have often felt that were we ever to do another strike that we could take our cabs to the poor areas and charge the people very little and be truly appreciated. Let those who take us for granted know what it means to do without.

Many of us have driven a lot of years and so many miles. For those of you that are new to

the job watch your health both physical and mental. Look at a cab driver and you will often see a person with a big stomach and over weight. This job will slow your metabolism down. Our heart, our kidneys, our back, our hemorrhoids, are often problems. We are often not feeling well and without energy. People in our lives want us to do things and we say we are tired and we are.

This job can make relationships tough. I remember when my daughter was growing up and I would come home and she would have the house all torn up with stuff every which way, and I would get angry at her. It was not her fault. She was just being a kid. But for me the stuff all over the house was traffic that I had to get through and man I was tired.

The stories of our lives are good to say. For ourselves and for others to hear and learn. Driving a taxi has a lot of joys and sadness. We are not stuck in an office and so we get to see things happening in the world. The new day sun as it arises over sparkling Lake Michigan is something that we know. The smell of new rain on a hot day. The fall leaves as they turn many colors and fall slowly in a gentle breeze. The love we see between older people as they walk holding hands. The laughter and energy of young people who are excited about our city of Chicago.

But there are also those times of sadness. Someone in our family is troubled, sick, or dying. We have to work. Or we do not have the monies to get to them. So many of us are so very far from home. We are working where we must. Yet

we can not be there for our families. We have stories to tell. A heart that can be open and not hard.

We all have so many stories about the people that we have met in this business. We have learned a lot and continue to learn. All of us could write a book and perhaps we shall. I remember Stoney who would constantly steal radio calls from other drivers. Razzani so street smart as a taxi driver but who was robbed and killed in a robbery at Jackson and Western when there were Housing Projects there. He had just won a taxi medallion but his widow had nothing because the City took his medallion before he could put it into effect. Tom with a law degree and teaching degree but lived in a taxi because all his monies went to play the horses.

There have also been people in the cab who I found interesting. Who made me laugh or touched my heart with their spirit to deal with their hard time. One afternoon within the space of two hours in the taxi cab I had a person who was an ex- heroin junkie and yet was great fun to be around and laughed so easily. Two hours later I had the former head of the New York Stock Exchange. A man in his seventies, rich, and yet as I listened to how he grow up and the separation he felt from his family I realized that he would like and enjoy talking to the person who had used heroin, and laughed so easily. Life has many stories that we can tell.

Please be a part of the Voice newspaper and tell your story.

What is the AFSC?

By Fayez Khozindar

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian services. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

This is the vision of the AFSC which I remember seeing in action when I was young. It was just after the creation of the state of Israel when thousands and thousands of Palestinians left their homes and ran for their lives to the nearest states they could reach. I grow up in the Gaza Strip, and I saw the newcomers holding onto their modest belonging and settling down wherever they could to rest after their long trip away from home. After the shooting stopped and the dust had settled down the grim picture became more and more clear. These people are here to stay and they need help, so, we gave whatever we could to help them out. However, the biggest help came about when we saw some trucks stopping and unloading their shipment near where the refugees were. Later, a tent was pitched and the children started dragging a huge bundle of clothes into the tent. After that they carried some boxes of canned food inside, and then they went to sleep in the tent.

I asked my grandmother about the identity of those people who came from nowhere, or from far away, and gave a helping hand to the refugees. She simply said "The Quakers my son, the Quakers."

Now, and after all this time, the AFSC is doing exactly what they did



then, helping our people by supporting the creation of a sound organization to represent the taxi drivers and have a meaningful seat at the table when taxi reform issues come up, or when a response is required to negative media coverage. With the great help of the AFSC, we the drivers were able to form the United Taxidrivers Community Council (UTCC) three years ago, and we published our vision statement, which reads "TO ORGANIZE AND UNIFY ALL LICENSED CHAUFFURS IN THE CHICAGO AREA, SO WE CAN COLLECTIVELY OVERCOME OPPRESSION AND ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE."

My fellow drivers, we ask you to come home to UTCC. It's your organization, and remember, you cannot do it alone, but **TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!**



A Talk with Alderman Beale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

of this committee as it relates to taxi drivers?

Ald. Beale: *The Mayor of the City of Chicago has offices such as the Department of Business and Consumer Protection (D.B.A.C.P., on Ogden) that sees that the rules and regulations are followed. But it is the City Council and the Transportation Committee, that I am chairman of, that has control over all matters relating to public transportation in Chicago. We are responsible for all rules and regulations. It is my job as chairman of this committee to make sure there is justice and fairness to the public and all taxi drivers.*

I am going to tell you it is a big job. I am learning all that I can as fast as can which is why I have already met with U.T.C.C. twice and would like to meet with other groups. Since I became head of the Transportation Committee, I have received many, many calls from drivers. I want very much to listen to each driver and give each driver fairness. But there is no way I can keep up with all the calls from drivers. I need your help. I am asking all the different cab organizations and those connected with the Chicago Dispatcher to get together and talk. You can settle on areas of agreement and hear from all the drivers and then get back to me and we will work together to bring about positive change for the taxi drivers of the City of Chicago.

Bill Burns: Before talking a bit about the issues for taxi drivers, could you tell us Ald. Beale something about who you are? Like where you live? The ward you represent? Where you went to school? Your pride in your community? Why you have chosen to stay in

your community? Do you have a family? If so what are your hopes and dreams for your family?

Ald. Beale: *I represent the 9TH Ward which lies on the far South Side of Chicago and covers the Roseland and Pullman districts. I am forty-three years old and have lived in this community my whole life. As a matter of fact I live in the*

house that I grew up in with my wife and three children. I went to school at Corliss High School. I traveled downstate for college. I love my community.

I encourage each taxi driver to know the issues of their community and get involved in whatever way they have time. If you are involved in your community then you can help take care of your family. In 1998 I got involved in my community. There where 59 liquor stores and very few businesses. When I became Alderman in 1999 I worked to reduce the liquor stores and bring in new businesses. This I have done.

I am very proud of my wife and children. I have two sons and a daughter in school at the University of Illinois in Champaign. I want my children to be healthy and strong, get a good education, and find decent jobs. These are the dreams that I know every taxi driver has for his family. He or she wants a fair chance to provide for their family.

Diane Santucci: Would you like any of your kids to go into politics?

Ald. Beale: *No way! I work 16 hours a day, six days a week and sometimes seven. I like what I do and I am serving my community, but it is hard.*

Bill Burns: I have a daughter and sometimes daughters want to be just like their Dad.

Ald. Beale: *(He laughs) Well, we will see.*

Diane Santucci: Why did you choose to become head of the

Transportation Committee ?

Ald. Beale: *The job opened up when Ald. Allen retired. Although I had my hands full being on other committees this was an opportunity to be chairman of a committee. So I stepped forward... I went through working with the different cab organizations to build a relationship to all drivers. I know what it means to work hard and struggle for everything you get.*

Bill Burns: The taxi drivers of the City of Chicago come from some 99 different nations. We work very hard for little pay and feel picked on by the City of Chicago, and some of its citizens. We feel that this often occurs because of our class, our language, and the countries that we come from. What skills Ald. Beale that you have used in your own community do you bring to the Transportation Committee that will allow you to help solve problems, and help resolve conflicts between drivers, drivers and the City, drivers and the public, and drivers and the cab associations?

Ald. Beale: *Wow! I did not know that taxi drivers come from some 99 nations.*

I feel that my greatest asset is the ability to get folks, who are at odds with each other, to sit down and talk about their issues and find areas of agreement. By my willingness to listen I create an atmosphere where others listen.

Two warring parties, the unions and Wal-Mart, I got to sit and talk out things so that the people in my community could have jobs and better food. We are very proud of what we accomplished. Progress can also happen in the taxi industry for all drivers.

Diane Santucci: In our conversation with you today, Ald. Beale, we have not talked with you about fair raises, conditions at O'Hare etc. The problems are so many. We understand that you are right now working very hard to understand all the ins and outs of the different problems. We of U.T.C.C., are going to be working hard to come together with other groups in the taxi industry so that drivers are heard and then we can work together with you to begin to fairly address the many problems.

Ald. Beale: *This is what I need and what I am asking of you and all drivers. If we give each other respect and listen to each other then there will be better conditions for all cab drivers.*

Bill Burns: Alderman Beale we talked about meeting for a half hour with you and instead we talked for an hour.

Ald. Beale: *Well, we will were listening and learning from each other. It was good.*

Diane Santucci: On behalf of U.T.C.C., and the many taxi drivers of Chicago we thank you for your

IT'S HAPPENING!!!

To all drivers and cab related organizations:

Alderman Beale, the new head of the City Transportation Committee, has made it very clear that he would like us to get together, work out our areas of agreement, and then present these issues and ideas to him in meetings.

Let us at U.T.C.C. know what your issues and needs are. CALL BILL BURNS AT 773-593-3379. We will be happy to meet with groups. Together we can provide an agenda of issues for Alderman Beale.

THANK YOU

Serving the Injured Cab Community
for 16 years!

Rex U. Huner
Huner Law Offices, LLC
850 West Jackson Blvd.
Suite 725
Chicago, IL 60607

Telephone: 312-733-4455
Cell: 312-933-1062

“Ask for Mr. Rex”



EXCLUSIVELY practices personal injury law, workers' compensation, and at 400 W. Superior

Call for a FREE Consultation

DESSERTS

Almond Kheer \$ 2.00
Mango Kheer \$ 2.00
Sugar Free Kheer \$ 2.00

LUNCH SPECIAL
\$ 5.95

10.30 am to 3.30pm

BUSINESS HOURS
Mon - Thu 9.00 am to Midnight
Fri - Sat 9.00 am to 6.00 am
Sun 10.00 am to 10.00 pm

WE USE CHOLESTEROL FREE VEGETABLE OIL

Malsted St. (West)

Delivery Area
WE DELIVER AT MAIN ENTRANCE ONLY
Delivery Charges \$5.00
Minimum Order \$10.00
Free Delivery Over \$30

Lake St. (South) North Ave (North) Lake Shore (East)

Madhavi Printing 630-729-9256

Pakistani, Indian & Mediterranean Cuisine

In The Heart Of Downtown Chicago

Baba Palace

334 W. Chicago Chicago IL 60654
Tel 312 - 867 - 7777
Fax 312 - 867 - 1226

We Accept All Major Credit Card

DISCOVER, MasterCard, VISA, American Express

UTCC
2040 N. MILWAUKEE, CHICAGO IL 60647
PHONE: (773) 342-UTCC (8822)
E-MAIL: INFO@UTCC.ORG
WWW.UTCC.ORG

UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Coming Soon!
The International Cultural Day
TO OUR FRIENDS ONE AND ALL

We need your input and help to prepare for this great event. Bring your friends and family to this international showcase. There will be traditional food, cloths, dancing, music and much more, reflecting the diversity of the cab driving community. Venue and date will be announced later. Help us make this event a special celebration!

American Friends Service Committee, Community Ally

Visit UTCC's Office!
2040 N Milwaukee Ave / 2nd Floor
Office Hours: Mon - Wed / 1pm-7pm
Phone: **773-342-8822**

Taxi Drivers!!!

Do nothing

Join UTCC

Coming Soon!

The International Cultural Day

TO OUR FRIENDS ONE AND ALL

We need your input and help to prepare for this great event. Bring your friends and family to this international showcase. There will be traditional food, cloths, dancing, music and much more, reflecting the diversity of the cab driving community. Venue and date will be announced later. Help us make this event a special celebration!



American Friends Service Committee, Community Ally