

March 2009

'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it'—George Santayana

Crime Down in Berwyn Chief Kushner and Dept. Honored

According to preliminary Illinois State Police reports, crime in Berwyn fell 2.5% in 2008, while arrests were up 15.5%.

According to the Crime Rate Comparison report dated Feb. 10, 2009, 1,570 "index" crimes were committed in Berwyn during 2008, down from 1,611 in 2007.

Index crimes are the eight crimes—homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson—used by the FBI to produce crime statistics comparable across states.

The full *Crime in Illinois 2008* report will not be published until June; however, the 2007 report provides a comparison of Berwyn's crime rate—crimes per 1,000 residents—versus the rates of neighboring communities.

According to *Crime in Illinois 2007*, Berwyn's crime rate was 31.7, versus rates of 39.4 and 49.6 for Oak Park and Forest Park, respectively. The crime rate for the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division, which includes Berwyn, was 38.3, while that for all of suburban Cook County was 31.6.

2008 WEDGE Report

The West Suburban Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement (WEDGE) Task Force also released its statistics for 2008: 148 arrests, 71 drug investigations, and 7 confiscated guns. The Task Force also made 198 traffic stops, had 892 gang contacts, and impounded 5 vehicles.

The WEDGE Task Force was created by Police Chief William

Kushner in the fall of 2006, his first year with the Berwyn Police Dept. The Task Force brings together police officers from Berwyn, Riverside, North Riverside, Forest Park, Stickney, and Lyons into a tactical unit whose sole purpose is to control gang activity in its participating communities.

Chief and Dept. Recognized

At the Feb. 10 City Council meeting, Chief Kushner announced that the Berwyn Police Dept. had been recently recognized by the U.S. Marshall's Service for its participation in the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force. Berwyn began its association with the Fugitive Task Force in 2006, when it participated in a "sting" of more than 100 local fugitives taken into custody in a six-day period.

Chief Kushner said that participation in a federal task force gives the department access to investigative resources "that would normally be beyond [its] reach."

Also at the Feb. 10 meeting, Mayor Michael O'Connor announced that Chief Kushner had obtained certification by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

LaGrange Police Chief Michael Holub, who chairs the Certification Committee, presented the chief with his certificate: "Chief Kushner demonstrated a high level of competence and fitness by successfully...fulfilling prescribed standards of performance and conduct...on topics such as leadership, community and public relations, management concepts, and ethics."

Impermissible Police Seizure Fund Expenditures Still Under Review

Expenditures totaling \$762,793 made, or earmarked to be made, from Berwyn's Police Seizure Fund under former Police/Fire Chief Frank Marzullo were called into question in late Oct. 2008 by the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

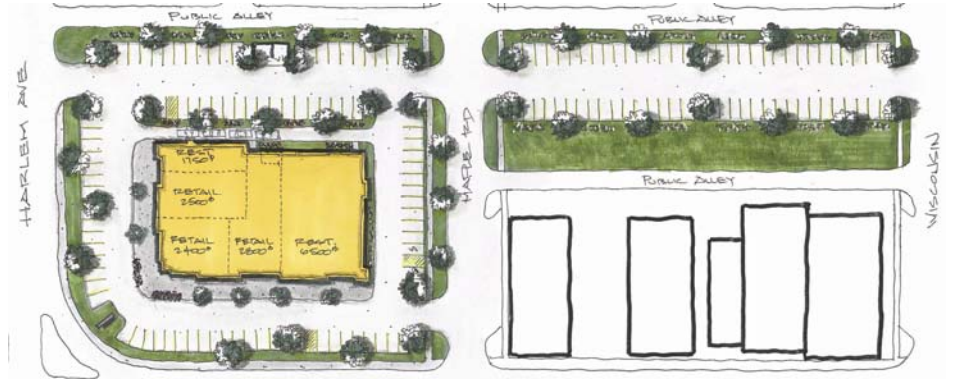
The expenditures, made in 2004 and 2005, included salaries, cash donations to Berwyn school and park districts, senior trips, and the purchase of a Chevy Impala for the Berwyn Fire Dept.

Under the Justice Department's Asset Forfeiture Program, vehicles, real property, and financial and other assets involved in a federal crime may be seized by police. Proceeds of the sale of these assets are often shared with local enforcement agencies who may use the funds at their discretion, but subject to certain restrictions.

Upon notification by the Justice Dept. that the expenditures were potentially not allowed under program guidelines, Berwyn Police Chief William Kushner was given 60 days to compile documentation to justify them.

A March 31st update from the Justice Dept. indicated that \$222,773 in salaries must be refunded or offset against future revenue sharing, and that the Impala must either be repossessed from the Fire Dept. or its value refunded. The remaining expenditures are still under review.

During the Nov. 11, 2008 City Council meeting at which the Justice Department notification was shared with the aldermen, Chief Kushner said, referring to his 30 years experience with the Chicago Police Department, "I've never seen anything like this."



Slated for demolition. At its Feb. 25, 2009 meeting, City Council approved a contract for demolition of city-owned buildings at the northeast corner of Cermak Road and Maple Ave. (bottom) The corner is part of a planned redevelopment project that will bring additional retail to the area (center).

Across the street in Cermak Plaza (top), Walgreens recently opened a new store at the Cermak edge of the parking lot, freeing up space in the plaza to bring in a large national grocer or other "big-box" retailer.

\$1.6 Million of Federal Stimulus Dollars on Their Way to Berwyn

Mayor Michael O'Connor has announced that Berwyn will receive more than \$1.6 million in the first portion of its share of federal economic stimulus funds, beginning in the next six to eight weeks. Announcements of additional grants are expected later.

Of the initial \$1.6 million, \$550,000 was awarded under the new Neighborhood Stabilization Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Program seeks to stabilize neighborhoods and stem a potential decline in property values by providing funds to states and some local communities to purchase, rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight.

An additional \$700,000 of the federal stimulus is targeted for the reconstruction/repaving of East Ave. between Roosevelt and Cermak.

The final \$365,000 will come in the form of increased Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which will most likely be used for infrastructure projects such as alley improvements, street lighting, and sidewalk replacement/repair.

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Where Did They Stand? How Aldermen Voted on the Issues

The Methadone Clinic

The request to operate a methadone clinic at Grove and Windsor Avenues, in the heart of Berwyn's Depot District, first came before City Council on April 8, 2008.

The request met with a 4-4 tie vote among the aldermen, with **Nona Chapman (1st), Michele Skryd (4th), Michael Phelan (6th), and Robert Lovero (7th) voting to approve the clinic.** The clinic's request to locate on Grove Ave. was denied when Mayor Michael O'Connor cast the deciding "No" vote.

Clinic operators appealed the denial, and the matter came before City Council a second time on July 8, 2008. **Ald. Chapman made the motion to approve the clinic,** and this time the motion passed by a 4-2 vote when **the same four aldermen voted in favor,** but with two aldermen absent.

Unable to cast a dissenting vote at the July 8 meeting, Mayor O'Connor called an open-air Town Meeting at the Grove Ave. municipal parking lot for July 16,

encouraging residents to join him in voicing opposition to the clinic, but giving aldermen an opportunity to explain their votes.

Hundreds of residents attended the open-air meeting, some carrying signs and banners of protest.

Upon taking the podium, Ald. Chapman was shouted down by the crowd when she attempted to read aloud a 600-700 word letter she had distributed to 1st ward residents the day before, defending her vote to approve the clinic. Abandoning efforts to read the letter amid shouts of "No more Nona," Ald. Chapman cited fear of legal action against the city should the clinic be denied. The letter revealed that she had been



Still No Promotion for Alderman's Husband

Despite grievances and lawsuits against the city, the husband of Ald. Michele Skryd (4th) remains the next candidate on the police sergeant's list, but with no promotion forthcoming.

According to documents submitted to Berwyn City Council and reports in the *Chicago Tribune*, a 2006 federal investigation of a possible fraudulent diploma mill revealed that at least seven Berwyn police officers had purchased fraudulent degrees.

Officer Skryd was not among the original seven. However, when the sergeant's exam was given shortly after the investigation began, the diplomas he and another officer submitted to obtain extra points on the exam were also found to be fraudulent.

Officer Skryd told the *Tribune* that he did not know the degree was questionable.

The other officer withdrew his diploma, but Officer Skryd filed a grievance, which was denied by Chief William Kushner.

Officer Skryd then filed a lawsuit to force the city to accept the diploma and include it for consid-

eration in the promotion process.

Officer Skryd lost the suit, appealed, and lost again.

Without the diploma, Officer Skryd was second in line for promotion to sergeant in mid-2008. Though the 2008 city budget had provided for two new sergeants' positions, the promotions had not been made because of a shortfall in revenue brought on by the national economic downturn.

In Sept. 2008, Officer Skryd filed another grievance demanding that the sergeants' positions be filled. The Chief denied the grievance based on the city attorney's opinion that a position in the budget does not create a "vacancy." His decision was appealed to **City Council, who voted 5-2 to deny the grievance, with Aldermen Nona Chapman (1st) and Robert Lovero (7th) dissenting.**

Said Mayor Michael O'Connor in response to Ald. Chapman's subsequent proposal to promote both sergeants anyway, "The action by City Council in passing a budget is not an order to spend each dollar budgeted, but to limit the amount spent."

Note: Complete City Council minutes, agendas, and contents of each meeting's "packet" may be found at www.berwyn-il.gov.

in dialogue with clinic operators for *more than two years.*

Ald. Lovero spoke next, prefacing his remarks with "Most of you dislike me, some of you despise me." He went on to suggest that he had not known the clinic was for methadone treatment.

Mayor O'Connor interrupted him to point out that, though the clinic's activities were initially unclear, all the aldermen knew by the time of the second vote that the clinic would provide methadone treatment.

Documents filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals in March stated that the clinic would engage in "substance abuse treatment," but the word "methadone" was not mentioned.

Methadone is used primarily to treat persons addicted to heroin.

Ald. Lovero concluded his remarks by assuring residents that he would not have voted in favor of the clinic had he known they were so opposed to it.

Ald. Skryd took the podium last and assured residents that she would move to reconsider her vote at the next City Council meeting, since she wanted them to re-elect her.

Ald. Phelan did not attend the open-air meeting.

On July 22 City Council reconsidered the clinic's request and denied it by a unanimous vote.

A referendum will be on the April 7, 2009 ballot, allowing the city to place location restrictions on medical clinics that are adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

Crime-Free Rental Housing

With support from Mayor O'Connor, a Crime-Free Rental Housing law was introduced jointly by Neighborhood Affairs and the Police Dept. and approved by City Council on April 8, 2008.

The law provides that the owners of multi-unit apartment buildings be licensed, that their buildings be periodically inspected, and that landlords incorporate a "Crime-Free" clause in their leases, which would make criminal activity by the tenant a lease violation and grounds for eviction.

The law applies to buildings with five units or more, and the cost to the city of inspecting the properties would be totally paid for by the licensing fees borne by the property owners. The license fee was set at \$100 plus \$15 per unit, with a discount for owner-occupied buildings.

According to Mayor O'Connor, more than 500 U.S. cities have similar laws, and the one in Schaumburg has been known to be successful in improving the quality of rental properties.

At the Sept. 23, 2008 City Council meeting, the Mayor proposed a job description for the inspector's position and urged council to authorize hiring. The Mayor's proposal failed 5-3, with **Aldermen Chapman, Skryd, Thomas Day (5th), Phelan, and Lovero** voting against.

In October Ald. Phelan, who owns rental property in Berwyn, made a motion to repeal the ordinance. The motion passed but was then reconsidered, and the repeal was voted down. **Aldermen Chapman, Jim Ramos (2nd), Skryd, and Phelan** voted twice to **repeal the ordinance.** Mayor O'Connor broke the 4-4 tie on the second vote to prevent repeal.

Aldermanic Legal Expenses

On Nov. 13, 2007, Ald. Phelan proposed a new Berwyn law requiring the city to pay the legal costs of any elected official named in a lawsuit and to allow the official to choose his/her own legal counsel. **Joining Ald. Phelan to vote in favor of the law were Aldermen Chapman, Skryd, Lovero, and Joel Erickson (8th).**

Ald. Phelan had clearly stated several months earlier that his motivation for having the law drafted was the fact that he had been named in a lawsuit, after issuing a press release allegedly containing false statements about a Chicago aldermanic candidate.

Mayor O'Connor vetoed the law based on advice from the city's legal staff that, if an elected official is sued in the course of city business, the official is already protected by existing Illinois law. In addition, according to the Illinois Supreme Court, a city could only pay an official's legal bills with taxpayer money if it "served a public purpose."

The same five aldermen voted to overturn the mayor's veto.

On Feb. 26, 2008, Ald. Phelan notified City Council that he had retained Miller, Shakman, and Beem to represent him in his lawsuit, with the expectation that the City of Berwyn would bear the expense. **Aldermen Chapman, Skryd, Day, Lovero, and Erickson** voted to **approve.**

Again, Mayor O'Connor vetoed, saying it was "a slap in the face of taxpayers" to approve such an expense without even knowing whether the firm's rate would be \$150 or \$600 per hour.

Ald. Mark Weiner, himself an attorney, registered his protest with the action, saying it was "obvious" to him that the press release that had gotten Ald. Phelan sued had "nothing to do with the Alderman's official duties."

Between May 2007 and March 2008, the issue was on the City Council agenda no fewer than 10 times.

Despite Economy, City Deficit Expected to Fall Below \$1 Million First Time This Decade

Preliminary 2008 financial results presented to City Council on Mar. 24 showed an operating loss under \$300,000. At mid-year, the budget shortfall had been projected to exceed \$2 million. According to Mayor O'Connor, hiring delays and employee layoffs helped close the gap between revenues and expenses. The city's 2008 audit is set to begin, and is expected to cost \$72,000 versus the \$266,000 paid for the 2003 audit. The savings are the result of improvements in the Finance Department.

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The Truth about "Section 8"

Section 8 is a Federal subsidy program offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Section 8 Vouchers are administered by local public housing authorities. Chicago, Maywood, Oak Park, and Cicero have their own housing authorities; the Housing Authority of County of Cook (HACC) administers vouchers in 122 suburban Cook communities, including Berwyn.

Local municipal governments do not play a role in the Section 8 voucher program.

Among the 18 largest communities served by HACC, those having approximately 40,000 to 75,000 residents, Berwyn ranked 12th in number of Section 8 Vouchers per 1,000 residents, according to HACC statistics. Berwyn had fewer than half the average number of vouchers for the group of 18 communities. (See table below.)

According to recent inquiries, housing authorities other than HACC did not have any voucher holders residing in Berwyn.

According to its website, HACC does not screen or pre-qualify landlords for participation in the voucher program. It does

encourage property owners to subject voucher holders to their established screening process, such as obtaining landlord references, verifying income, reviewing credit history, and verifying employment.

There are two kinds of Section 8 assistance—project-based and tenant-based. With project-based Section 8, the assistance is tied to the physical apartment building or unit, what has commonly been called "Section 8 housing." The Federal government has not provided funds for new project-based Section 8 units for many years.

Under tenant-based Section 8 or the "Housing Choice Voucher Program," assistance is tied to the individual family, not to the apartment unit itself. The purpose of the Housing Choice Voucher Program is to help very-low-income households afford private market rental housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary.

With a Housing Choice Voucher, a household pays 30% of its income toward rent, and the remainder (the difference between the amount the tenant pays and the actual amount of the rent) is paid by the Federal government.

City	# of 2007 Vouchers	2000 Census	Vouchers/ per 1,000
Calumet City	955	39,071	24.4
Evanston	647	74,239	8.7
Skokie	455	63,348	7.2
Schaumburg	376	75,386	5.0
Des Plaines	231	58,720	3.9
Hoffman Estates	186	49,495	3.8
Glenview	125	41,847	3.0
Hanover Park	97	38,278	2.5
Palatine	160	65,479	2.4
Tinley Park	113	48,401	2.3
Buffalo Grove	95	42,909	2.2
Berwyn	104	54,016	1.9
Arlington Hts.	114	76,031	1.5
Mt. Prospect	80	56,265	1.4
Oak Lawn	50	55,245	0.9
Bartlett	30	36,706	0.8
Park Ridge	13	37,775	0.3
Orland Park	12	51,077	0.2
Average	214	53,572	4.0

Source: Housing Authority of Cook County

Berwyn Housing Center Threatened

The Berwyn Housing Center was created in 2007 to provide assistance to landlords in attracting quality tenants and to encourage property owners and managers to improve their properties. At the same time, the Housing Center uses targeted advertising to promote Berwyn as a desirable place to rent. Tenants and landlords connect through the Center's referral service.

The Berwyn Housing Center is part of the same non-profit organization that operates the 36-year-old Oak Park Regional Housing Center.

The Berwyn Housing Center is not a Housing Authority and has nothing to do with Housing Choice Vouchers. Says Executive Director Rob Braymaier, the Center's presence is likely to increase rents in Berwyn over time. He also stated that tenants are made aware of Berwyn's Crime-Free Rental law through the Center.

The Center assisted 1,022 clients during 2008 and had enrolled in its program 113 property owners/managers representing 158 buildings, according to Mr. Braymaier.

The City's \$250,000 contract with the Center was renewed in May, 2008. In August, however, Ald. Robert Lovero (7th) proposed that City Council terminate the contract, citing Mayor O'Connor's earlier layoffs of union employees apparently as evidence that the Center was not a good use of city funds.

The contract remains under discussion.

It's Our Opinion . . .

Why are Some Unions Supporting the Opposition?

City Hall employees, almost all of whom are union members, have **gold-plated medical insurance benefits. They pay absolutely nothing for this insurance**—this is a benefit of working for the City of Berwyn—and they have **no deductible whatsoever**. Every time they see a doctor, they have a \$10 co-pay. We should all be so lucky.

The City wants to bring this benefit down to earth from never-never land, more into line with what an average Berwyn resident has for benefits. How much do you pay for medical insurance for your family? We bet it's not zero with a zero deductible, and that your insurance isn't gold-plated.

If there exists a company or a government employer who provides the medical benefits Berwyn employees receive, we couldn't find one. In addition, City Hall employees have received pay increases exceeding the cost-of-living over the last several years, so this gold-plated medical insurance isn't making up for low pay.

Now, the City of Berwyn is not a big, faceless corporation with executives smoking big cigars, flying in private jets, and eating \$200 lunches. Nor is the City of Berwyn the mayor and his staff. **We, the residents, are the City of Berwyn.**

Mayor O'Connor is merely caught in the middle, negotiating on our behalf—on behalf of Berwyn families, whose average yearly income isn't the millions of dollars corporate executives earn, but is instead about \$52,000. By the way, the mayor's total salary of \$60,000 hasn't been raised in over 20 years.

Many of the city employees stomping their feet and throwing tantrums like 4-year-olds over their gold-plated medical insurance are making a lot more than \$52,000, and most of *them* don't even live in Berwyn. Some of those with the highest salaries are the ones throwing the loudest, longest tantrums.

It seems that if mayoral candidate Ald. Robert Lovero (7th) had his way, with some union backing, these gold-plated benefits would go on for eternity: That's what he's apparently promised to the unions and city employees, in addition to the sun, the moon, and the stars—which the City of Ber-

wyn also could not afford for eternity. Remember, Ald. Lovero supported raising your property taxes *every year* for the last four years, and that's exactly what he would have to do to hire all the people to whom he's promised jobs, contracts, and gold-plated medical benefits for eternity.

Renters: Ald. Lovero's higher property taxes won't just affect homeowners; your landlord will pass that tax increase on to you in higher rent. No one will be immune.

Why the temper tantrum from some union members? We residents, the City of Berwyn, asked 400+ city employees to pay a whopping \$62/month (net of income tax) for gold-plated family medical insurance with some deductible. That's about \$750/yr, and it would save the city a half-million bucks and hold down property taxes. The reply: "Union-busting!"

Since when is negotiation, collective bargaining, or even arbitration "union-busting"? We thought this was America. And if you think about it, since the employees are so fewer in number than us Berwyn residents, and since so many have higher salaries than we do, isn't this upside-down?

Aren't we, the lower-paid 55,000 Berwyn residents, more like labor, and they, the 400+ employees with gold-plated benefits, most of whom don't live here, more like management? Why should we pay for their gold-plated medical benefits? We don't get them!

No one is looking to bust a union; and as we said last time, who could do so even if they wanted to? Many of our Independent Voters of Berwyn members—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Greens—are union members, and many of their fathers were union members as well, although never with medical insurance like this, when they had medical insurance at all.

It appears that facts have again been misrepresented. That is, some few city employees must have "misled" their union brethren from outside of Berwyn about exactly what they're throwing tantrums over, because we know that their outside union brethren aren't receiving Berwyn-style medical benefits.

Maybe, for a change, the opposition should tell them the truth.

It's important that you
VOTE on April 7 to
Keep Berwyn Moving Forward
INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF BERWYN

The Two Major Parties in Berwyn: Who are They?

Most cities in Illinois have non-partisan local elections—candidates appear on the ballot as individuals without a party designation. Since Berwyn continues to have partisan elections, it is useful to **know something about the parties on the April 7 ballot.**

The Independent Voters of Berwyn organization (IVB) was founded in 1999 by Michael O'Connor, who was then in his second term as 1st ward alderman.

According to Mr. O'Connor, the goal of the IVB has always been to bring together Democrats, Republicans, Green Party supporters, and Independents who have set aside whatever differences they may have over county, state, and federal issues to work for good government in Berwyn.

Mr. O'Connor was elected 1st ward alderman twice as a Democrat, but over the years became disenchanted with the Berwyn Regular Democratic Organization (BRDO) and increasingly opposed to the policies of the BRDO-majority administration. He was finally ousted from the party in 1999 when he became an outspoken critic of City Council's decision to embark on a \$65 million infrastructure project without putting the initiative on the ballot as a referendum.

Mr. O'Connor made his first bid for mayor as an IVB candidate in 2001, losing to incumbent Thomas Shaughnessy by only 261 votes of nearly 10,000 votes cast.

By this time the local Democratic organization had a virtual stranglehold on Berwyn city government. With the Republican party having only a minimal presence in Berwyn, Democratic candidates for office routinely ran unopposed. With its near monopoly power, the BRDO-majority administration was free to engage in blatant nepotism at City Hall, paying inflated salaries to friends and family on the payroll and routinely awarding no-bid contracts to party insiders.

In Nov. 2003, Mayor Shaughnessy's administrative assistant, Samuel "Sonny" Stillo, was arrested, and ultimately convicted and sentenced to jail, on racketeering charges after bribing an alderman for his vote on the "Superblock" redevelopment pro-

ject at Cermak and Oak Park.

Although never convicted, former Berwyn Police Chief Frank Marzullo was charged twice with battery, once in July 2003 and again on the night of the April 5, 2005 election. Mr. Marzullo's son Jerry, a Berwyn firefighter, was also charged in the alleged April 2005 beating of former North Riverside Village Manager Wayne Pesek, but was not convicted.

Former Police Chief Frank Marzullo and Mayor Shaughnessy chaired the BRDO.

Michael O'Connor made his second bid for mayor as an IVB candidate in April 2005. Apparently ready for change, the voters elected him by a margin of 2,150 votes, and elected 14 other IVB candidates to fill a majority of city and township offices.

Unfortunately, not all of those candidates are still with the IVB, some having chosen to form other alliances. A few became dissatisfied with Mayor O'Connor when he refused to appoint or promote their friends and family members to city positions, or when the mayor refused to demand that city departments grant them preferential treatment as elected officials.

The Berwyn Regular Democratic Organization became inactive and finally disbanded in Jan. 2008. Its final expenditure was a transfer to the "Committee for a Better Berwyn," whose chairman and treasurer are Frank Marzullo.

The Democratic Citizens of Berwyn (DCOB) took its place, beginning in June, 2006. Most of its initial \$6,000 of itemized contributions came from former Mayor Shaughnessy, his defeated successor Michael Woodward, Paul Nosek, then-DCOB treasurer who ran Berwyn's finance department under Mayor Shaughnessy, and Ald. Robert Lovero (7th).

Ald. Lovero, DCOB chairman and mayoral candidate, ran twice as a BRDO member, retaining his aldermanic seat in April 2005 by beating the IVB candidate by 35 votes.

A number of candidates on the April 7 ballot appear with the designation "Independent." These candidates are **not** affiliated with the Independent Voters of Berwyn.

Mayoral Candidate Vows to Abolish City's Community Outreach Department Claims He Will Not Bring Back Stillo, Marzullo

At the Feb. 19 All Berwyn Committee Candidate Forum, Ald. Robert Lovero (7th), Democratic Citizens of Berwyn (DCOB) candidate for mayor, stated that he would seek to trim the city's budget by eliminating the Community Outreach Department.

The Community Outreach Department facilitates solutions to citizen inquiries and complaints; serves as the principal liaison to the Berwyn Police Department; acts as city media liaison; administers the Mayor's Advisory Committee and Berwyn's Neighborhood Watch program; and produces the Neighborhood Watch, City of Berwyn, and Senior newsletters. This is in addition to overseeing city events such as Town Hall meetings, festivals, parades, National Night Out, and this past year's Centennial commemoration.

The department employs two people, one of whom is bilingual. According to the city's preliminary budget, the net cost of maintaining the department is expected to be \$160,000 in 2009, not the \$400,000 that Ald. Lovero has repeatedly claimed. The department covers the rest of its own costs through grants and sponsorships.

Earlier in the forum, unsolicited, Ald. Lovero sought to refute

rumors and assure residents that, if elected mayor, he would not offer positions to Samuel "Sonny" Stillo or Frank Marzullo.

Mr. Stillo, assistant to former Mayor Thomas Shaughnessy, was sentenced to 30 months in prison in Nov. 2006 for bribery and bid-rigging. According to the *Chicago Sun Times*, U.S. District Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan handed down the maximum sentence, saying Mr. Stillo deserved it.

At the time of Mr. Stillo's arrest in Nov. 2003, Ald. Lovero had responded to questioning *Chicago Tribune* reporters: "All I will say is my friend is in trouble and I will help him all I [can]."

Mr. Marzullo, former Berwyn Police/Fire Chief (see *Two Major Parties*, p. 4), submitted his resignation in April 2005 after being indicted on charges of aggravated battery and official misconduct.

Ald. Lovero, in an April 26, 2005 lame-duck session of Berwyn City Council, voted with three departing aldermen from the outgoing Shaughnessy administration to pay Mr. Marzullo in excess of \$70,000 in unused vacation, sick days, and compensatory time.

Jerry Marzullo, son of the former Police/Fire Chief, contributed to Ald. Lovero's election committee as recently as Sept. 2008.

Berwyn's National Night Out Named #1

Community Outreach Director Jeanmarie Hajer announced at the Feb. 10, 2009 City Council meeting that Berwyn's 2008 National Night Out Event was awarded 1st place in the State of Illinois and 21st place in the nation among participating communities having populations of 50,000 to 100,000 people. The award was made by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW).

NATW is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs.

According to NATW, its National Night Out event, held annually on the first Tuesday of August,

has been "extraordinarily successful in promoting involvement in crime and drug prevention activities, strengthening police-community relations, and encouraging neighborhood camaraderie as part of the fight for safer streets."

Retail giant Target is the principal corporate sponsor of the event, and named the City of Berwyn as one of its top four community partners in 2008.

Target provided \$3,500 in grant funding and 100 volunteers in support of Berwyn National Night Out.

Ms. Hajer's Feb. 10 memo to City Council stated that Berwyn's event is a partnership involving the city's Community Outreach, Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments, both Berwyn park districts, and many other federal, state, county, and local organizations.

The award-winning 2008 event was Berwyn's third, the city having only participated in the program since 2006.



Mayor Michael O'Connor says he is committed to working with all elected officials, regardless of party affiliation. His administration has brought \$12 million in new grants to Berwyn. Shown with Ill. State Reps. LaShawn Ford (D-8th) and Lisa Hernandez (D-24th), Ill. Sec. of State



Jesse White, Riverside Village President Harold Wiaduck, Jr., Congressman Daniel Lipinski (D-3rd), North Riverside Mayor Richard Scheck, and Governor Pat Quinn.

The mayors joined with Congressman Lipinski on March 16, 2009, as he announced funding for Canadian National Railway upgrades to create a quiet zone that includes Berwyn.

