

Say **“NO”** to the Racist Billboards Targeting Black Women



Disrespecting Black Women and Insulting the Black Community

On March 29, 2011, the Texas-based *LifeAlways* erected billboards at the first of twenty-nine locations in African American communities on Chicago’s south and west sides. These racist and sexist billboards accuse Black women of killing potential Black leaders stating, “Every 21 minutes, our next potential leader is aborted.” Adding insult to injury, the billboards feature a picture of President Barack Obama. **These billboards are a direct attack on Black women’s reproductive integrity and must come down!**

The conservative, right-wing groups behind the billboards – LifeAlways and Heroic Media – do not support many of the government safety net programs that would directly benefit Black women, our families and the entire African American community. **LifeAlways is, in fact, financially supported by Heroic Media which has hosted numerous fundraising events with former Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin and former Presidential candidate, Mike Huckabee.**

Similar billboards targeting Black women have went up in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and now in Chicago – almost always in predominantly African American communities.

Join in the effort to stop these vicious attacks upon the bodies of Black women. First, take action by doing one or all of the **“Top 3 Things You Can Do Today.”** Second, become a part of ongoing efforts to highlight some of the real issues impacting the lives of Black women and the entire African American community. **Call Black Women for Reproductive Justice at 773-955-2709 or email no2billboards@bwrj.org to find out about all of the work taking place to stop the attacks on Black women.**

Top 3 Things You Can Do Today

Call 311 City Services

Call the City of Chicago’s 311 City Services to file a complaint about the billboards. Tell them you think the billboards are offensive and racist and you want them to come down. A list of the exact locations of all the billboards is on the back of this flyer.

Call Aldermen in Wards with Billboards

Let your Aldermen know you find the billboards offensive to all women. Ask them to support you in getting the billboards removed and to use every remedy available to the city to protect the rights of all citizens against hate speech on billboards. A list of the Aldermen and their contact information is on the back of this flyer.

Tell Your Story — Come Speak Out!

More than ever, we need frank, honest conversations with Black women that place our needs at the center of the discussion. Black women have limited access to information about reproductive and sexual health, family planning, prevention and transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. These are some of the real issues – not Black women making the decisions that they understand are in the best interest of their families. Visit www.bwrj.org to share your story.

Black Women for Reproductive Justice (BWRJ)

BWRJ was founded in 1996 to empower Black women from all walks of life with reproductive and sexual health education. We are advocates who organize Black women to improve public policies and institutions that affect our reproductive autonomy.



BWRJ
1424-28 East 53rd Street, #306
Chicago, Illinois 60615
773-955-2709
www.bwrj.org
askbwrj@bwrj.org



Black Women Speak Out

Hosted by

***Black Women for Reproductive Justice
and***

Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Women

Come share the REAL ISSUES facing Black women

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

6:00pm — 8:00pm

Chicago Park District — Jackson Park

6401 S. Stony Island, Chicago

*Black women speaking for ourselves

*Available local resources

*Defining what we need to live healthy lives

*Taking action to address our needs

Sponsored By:

AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Affinity Community Services, Chicago Abortion Fund, Chicago NOW DuPage, Global Girls, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Illinois Choice Action Team, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum-Chicago, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Professor Dorothy Roberts, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice-IL, SisterSong NYC, Trust Black Women Partnership, Walk for Choice, Young Women's Empowerment Project

Confirmed Locations of Billboards

1. 5812 S. State, St. 6th Ward
2. West 51st St. & South Hoyne, 16th Ward
3. 63rd and South St. Lawrence, 6th Ward
4. 63rd and South Rhodes, 6th Ward
5. 67th and South King Drive, 6th Ward — Side of viaduct facing the intersection of Marquette Road, South Chicago Avenue, and King Drive
6. 6829 South Ashland, 17th Ward
7. 647 W. 69th St., 6th Ward
8. 949 E. 75th St., 6th Ward
9. 7843 South Cottage Grove, 6th Ward — North side of an abandoned building overlooking parking lot for Leak and Sons Funeral Home
10. 87th and South Justine, 21st Ward
11. 95th and South Princeton, 21st Ward
12. 115th and South Princeton, 34th Ward
13. 115th and South King Drive, 9th Ward
14. 120th and South Halsted, 34th Ward
15. West Chicago Ave. and Central, 29th Ward
16. West Chicago Ave. and North Menard, 29th Ward

Aldermen Contact Information

Ald. Carrie M. Austin, 34th Ward
507 W. 111th, Chicago, IL 60628 — 773-928-6961
caustin@cityofchicago.org

Ald. Anthony Beale, 9th Ward
34 E. 112th Pl., Chicago, IL 60628 — 773-785-1100
Email: abeale@cityofchicago.org

Ald Howard B. Brookins, Jr., 21st Ward
9612 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60628 — 773-881-9300
Email: ward21@cityofchicago.org

Ald. William Cochran, 20th Ward
6357 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL 60637 — 773-955-5610
Email: Willie.Cochran@cityofchicago.org

Ald. Deborah Graham, 29th Ward
5755 W. Division St., Chicago, IL 60651 — 773-261-4646

Ald. Freddrenna Lyle, 6th Ward
406 E. 75th St., Chicago, IL 60619 — 773-846-7006
Website: 6thwardalderman.com — Email: flyle@cityofchicago.org

Ald. Latasha R. Thomas, 17th Ward
7811 S. Racine Ave., Chicago, IL 60620 — 773-723-0908
Email: lrthomas@cityofchicago.org

Ald. JoAnn Thompson, 16th Ward
5335 S. Western Blvd., Chicago, IL 60609 — 773-434-3399
Email: JoAnn.Thompson@cityofchicago.org