

DARLENE CANNON

for 2nd Ward

October 12, 2020

City Council Meeting

Good Evening, all:

Like many, I have concerns about the current state of affairs of our country, which is why it is imperative we focus on processes, policies and politicians, at the local level.

Local level, electoral politics, have direct implications on the communities in which they serve.

We cast our vote to elect alderpeople, with the expectation that they will represent the people. The people of Evanston expect representation and transparency from their council men and women. The selection and voting process for city manager was not that. This process did not present as justice, for many of us in Evanston.

From an anti-racist position, in which the city and their officials often appropriate, their should of been great and fair consideration for Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who, in my critical opinion, is adequately qualified to preform as Evanston's City Manager.

I believe that Aretha has the competency, experience and leadership required to work effectively with council, stakeholders and community leaders. I was very impressed with Athetha's knowledge of and experience with community engagement, public financial management and her understanding of the various challenges within a city like Evanston.

Aretha leads with listening and affirms the lives of residents, particularly in such uncertain times.

I speak in conjunction with my fellow community residents, we look forward to, and will continue to advocate for the transparency around city council's individual voting records.

Thank you, very much to community members that continuously fight for transparency in government.