

# DARLENE CANNON

for 2nd Ward

October 16, 2020

UNMASKED - EVANSTON CORRUPTION: The City MisManagement Position

Good evening, all:

I am Darlene Cannon and many of you all know I am running for alderwoman in the second ward. But, I am speaking tonight as a resident, as someone who has spent their entire life living in the second ward.

I want to talk to you today about my fundamental beliefs related to equity and transparency, that ultimately impacts the lives of everyone, but particularly the lives of Black and people of color, here in Evanston.

I am perpetually concerned about fairness, because I believe that we should all live in a democracy that fosters fairness, and this type of democracy should include the importance of transparency and community dialogue.

To say it plainly, **we should all have input on decisions that will impact our lives.**

I, like many others standing here today, felt as if the process of hiring the next city manager was not transparent.

Similarly, public input and concerns were not incorporated into this process. It is as if the choice for next city manager was predetermined. This should upset us all!

We have to resist the ways in which inequality is normalized, we should all be upset!

Many of us here tonight, of all races are fighting for racial justice, in our communities and at the city level. I stand with you, in that fight for fairness, equity and justice.

I wish I was able to tell those in power that I want a city manager that thinks about the ways in which policies and practices impact minority communities, women and children. I want a city manager that acknowledges institutional racism.

We deserve someone that has experience working with marginalized populations and can help foster the very dialogues and leadership that humanized those that this city too often leaves behind.

If I asked you all, **what would a fair and equitable process for selecting the city manager would look like?** I know I would receive the very ideas that would ensure transparency. **I know that the people know what they need.**

As a black woman, I am saddened to see the public display of the ways in which Black and brown women are far too often overlooked, undervalued and deemed incompetent. Such practices gatekeep and protect the status quo, they preserve the current power.

- We have to, collectively center marginalized folks so that the sort of diversity that lives here in Evanston is reflected in those that lead Evanston.
- **In the words of the great Fannie Lou Hammer, “we are sick and tired of being sick and tired!”**
- We have to collectively say, **TIMES UP!**

And so I leave you with this piece of history: **WHEN WE FIGHT TOGETHER, WE WIN!**

Thank you all for your support and solidarity, in the fight for justice.