

Lakefront Outlook

September 6, 2006

Criticism is welcome in 3rd Ward aldermanic race

To the Editor:

In response to the Aug. 7 letter about my "blocking" as it relates to running for a seat versus another opponent to Ald. Dorothy Tillman, I can appreciate his concern. A few other neighbors have expressed the same sentiments.

I welcome his critique. It gets people interested in change. Once people get to know me, they find out that there is more to Mell Monroe than what meets the eye. In this process, they discover my real track record in the community.

Concern about my candidacy is normal and expected. Hopefully, they will become familiar with who I am and my position on important 3rd Ward issues. They must be addressed with a sense of urgency. Tillman must go.

Interestingly, nobody has challenged my qualifications as a businessman with a results oriented background. I'm curious. Critics question my performance as a community volunteer giving my time and commitment to others. My wife Angie and I have been good neighbors; no one can dispute that. My leadership role as a near South Side resident was mostly spent as a

selfless and humble servant. I have sought little recognition for the work that I did. Sitting quietly and respectfully on the sidelines, I have observed others long enough. I believe that it is time to say what I have to say.

I have been a galvanizer all my life. I got a few things off my chest recently by publishing a number of letters about the Kroc Center, Harold Washington Cultural Center and cleaner streets. I vehemently disagree with the manner in which the incumbent has handled these matters.

My candidacy is all business. It has nothing to do with an individual or a personality. It's not personal. It's about positive change for the 3rd Ward. I will share my ideas for these venues soon enough. Espousing divisiveness is not who I am or what I do. These accusations likely come from the protocol of the alderman's office. Pitting black folks against each other is not who I am.

The implication is erroneously applied, especially in a



democracy based on insightful, fair and worthy competition. Business and politics mix well, both built on competitive change.

The aldermanic election is six months away. Make no mistake about it; the people

will have a chance to assess, evaluate and make a choice. Let's stay the course. The race is about competing to challenge the decisions of Ald. Dorothy Tillman, no more and no less.

If I can't raise the necessary money, commit to the time it takes to galvanize people to win, I will do the right thing. Public information about the financial status as well as public opinion of each candidate is readily available for monitoring. Do your homework. If I am losing the battle, I will clearly join forces, assuming that others will do the same. Each candidate must build a constituency of followers who believe in their respective mission and can deliver results for the people of the 3rd Ward.

Mell Monroe