

AUGUST 29th UNITY RALLY

August 9, 2004

Sister & Brother Activists:

We're writing to request your help in building and funding a Unity Rally For Justice And Peace that will take place later this month on the eve of the Republican National Convention. On August 29th, thousands of Chicagoans will gather at the Federal Center at Dearborn and Adams to say in one voice: NO To The Bush Agenda! YES To A Better World! *

The call for the August 29th Unity Rally is being issued by leaders of the same coalition that organized the Daley Plaza demonstration in early 2003**. On that day of March 16th, more than 10,000 people representing a diverse cross-section of Chicago came together to hear political, labor, community, religious and student leaders denounce the Bush Administration's drive towards war and oppose its attacks on the rights, liberties and living standards of average Americans.

In the same spirit, the August 29th Unity Rally is planned as a large, multi-cultural action. The date of August 29th has been chosen to coincide with the opening of the Republican National Convention, to highlight and dramatically juxtapose an alternate course to the Bush program of endless war abroad and reaction and repression at home. The Rally will provide a timely opportunity to stand up for new policies that promote peace and real security, and protect our civil rights and liberties, our jobs and health care, our schools and our environment.

As you know, the costs of mounting such an event are substantial and we need your financial support. Although staff and organizer time is being donated by supporting organizations, we need help with expenses of travel for national speakers, the production of flyers and publicity, the renting of stage and sound equipment, the cost of insurance, and many other expenses.

There are no corporate sponsors or multimillionaire angels to appeal to. There are only people like you, people who are committed to putting some money where their beliefs are. In this heated political season the demands for money are heavy, but this effort is important. We are putting our own energy, time, and money into it. We hope you will join us in making a financial contribution and, where possible, in volunteering your time, energy and organizing leadership.

Checks should be made out to "*Committee for New Priorities*" (which has agreed to act as fiscal agent for the August 29th Rally), and sent as soon as possible to *Unity Rally, c/o Chicago Jobs with Justice, 333 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL, 60607*. Please also let us know if your organization is willing to become a co-

sponsor of the Rally (a minimum \$100 organizational co-sponsorship fee is requested), by replying to this letter or e-mail. Thank you for any help you can provide.

In unity,

* The Chicago UNITY RALLY is not intended to discourage anyone who is planning to go to NYC on August 29th in order to participate in the national United for Peace and Justice March and Rally, "The World Says No To The Bush Agenda", at the Republican National Convention. For the thousands unable to make the trip, however, the Chicago UNITY RALLY will be an opportunity to also come together for peace and justice.

** *The original August 29th Rally call letter was signed by:*

Tom Balanoff, Service Employees International Union Local 1
Ray Colon, 35th Ward Alderman
Joe Davis, United Steelworkers of America Local 9777
Terry Davis, Committee for New Priorities
Miguel del Valle, Illinois Senator, 2nd District
Elwood Flowers, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308
Luis Gutierrez, Congressman, 4th Congressional District
Joshua Hoyt, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Katie Jordan, Coalition of Labor Union Women
Marilyn Katz, Chicagoans Against War and Injustice
Elena Marcheschi, Chicago Labor for Peace, Prosperity & Justice
Michael McConnell, American Friends Service Committee
Stephen McCullough, Bethel New Life
Rev. Calvin Morris, Community Renewal Society
Joe Moore, 49th Ward Alderman
Ricardo Munoz, 22nd Ward Alderman
Camille Odeh, Southwest Youth Collaborative
Ron Powell, United Food and Commercial Workers' Union Local 881
Jesse M. Rios, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Harold Rogers, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Joe Romano, United Steelworkers of America Local 15671
Carl Rosen, United Electrical Workers District 11
Ed Sadlowski, United Steelworkers of America District 31
Jan Schakowsky, Congresswoman, 9th Congressional District
Ed Shurna, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Lynn Talbott, UNITE HERE
James Thindwa, Chicago Jobs with Justice
Tom Wilson, Access Living
Tim Yeager, United Auto Workers, Local 2320
Dr. Quentin Young, Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

(Affiliations listed for identification purposes only)



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