From:	Irving, Toni
To:	lou.bertucca@illinois.gov
Subject:	FW: Remarks for Bishop Brazier funeral -attached and in body of email
Date:	Thursday, October 28, 2010 11:27:14 PM
Attachments:	Bishop Brazier.docx

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From: toni irving [dr.toniirving@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 11:11 PM
To: [redacted]; lou.bertucca@illinois.gov; [redacted]
Cc: jen.celaya@illinos.gov; Irving, Toni
Subject: Remarks for Bishop Brazier funeral -attached and in body of email

Opening Anecdote:
Either your first time meeting Bishop Brazier or funny story of playing basketball w/him?

Bishop Brazier will be missed. I know he will be especially missed by his family. His amazing wife Isabelle Brazier; His daughters Lola Hillman, Janice Cortch, and Rosalyn Sheperd; grandchildren, great grandchildren and of course his son Dr. Byron T. Brazier who has taken up Bishop's mantel and his mission to the next level.

Art Brazier was a national treasure and an icon in the Woodlawn community. It did not just happen. From a small congregation forty years ago he has worked through civil society protests, fighting gangs and violence, advocating for affordable housing and urban development. These endeavors are both a culmination and outgrowth of the monumental testimony of his vision –The Apostolic Church of God.

Art Brazier saw things that others couldn't see, and when no one else was looking.

Sunday defined a place for Brazier. This very building is a testament to his tenacity. It stands in place of an out of use and dilapidated El track that Bishop lobbied the CTA to tear down. They finally did, and out of the wreckage he built a house of worship --out of the darkness he brought light.

But, for Bishop Brazier the church was not a building, it was the people. His ministry never limited itself to those who showed up on Sunday morning but the needs and life conditions of the entire community.

So ofcourse, he will be tremendously missed as well by his congregation and his community but I remind you as Psalm 55 says, "cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you he will never let the righteous fall."

The idea of missing Arthur Brazier must be lightened when he has left so much of himself behind. Everyday we are reminded of the great legacy left by the Bishop:

Bishop Brazier was full of life, but more than anything he was full of love and purpose. One man embarked upon a mission to bring access and equality to his community –one block, one person, one soul at a time. And in the aftermath there are countless individuals who remain touched, mentored, and shaped by him.

Bishop served not just his community, but his country. He is a World War 2 veteran who served in India and brought the fight back to the battle ground of civil rights.

In 1960 he founded the Woodlawn Organization, he invited to Chicago and then marched with Dr.

Martin Luther King in 1966, he was the founding Chairman of the Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corp. Bishop Brazier had a servant's heart but an advocate's spirit.

The prophet has left but the vision has not changed.

The state recently launched a Neighborhood Recovery Initiative with goals like violence prevention, mental health treatment, youth mentoring, parent leadership, workforce development, after school support – all of these are taken from Bishop Brazier's playbook.
To close I'd like to remind you of a passage from John Chapter 14:
Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

I am honored to have known Bishop Brazier. He is in a better place and because of his work here on earth we are all in a better place.

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