

6435 W North Ave Oak Park, IL 60302 Phone: 708-495-1931

The Michael Gray Foundation of Dreams in association with The Miranda Hall is an elegant event venue established in honor of my late, great mother Miranda Hall-Gray. As a woman of God, Miranda wore a smile everywhere she went and was truly loved by everyone. It was well known that she had a special knack for bringing people in her community together and creating a sense of unity. The Miranda Hall continues her legacy, allowing friends and family, neighbors and colleagues, to come together for occasions of love and support.

We believe that community events and activities are some of the greatest ways to connect with others and nurture long lasting relationships. Whether it is a charity fundraiser or a local author's book signing, The Miranda Hall provides a perfect space to congregate with the goal of helping others in our community. It also serves as a private venue for families to celebrate their most special and cherished moments, from baby showers to retirement parties. In the end, you can walk away from any event at The Miranda Hall with a good feeling and a great memory!

Sincerely, Chetranda Gray DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: Village of Oak Park Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Miranda Hall – Applicant for Special Use Zoning, 6435 North Avenue

SUBJECT: REBUTTAL TO THE APRIL 28, 2022 NORTH AVENUE DISTRICT, INC (NADI) AND APRIL 27,

2022 MARCELO NICOSIA'S REQUESTS TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE AT

6435 NORTH AVENUE

Dear Village Board of Appeals Members:

We would like to thank the board for their consideration of our permit application before you for 6435 North Avenue, Miranda Hall.

We have made this application for special use as required by local ordinance and trust that the review will be based solely on Miranda Hall qualifying for this use within the parameters of those ordinances.

We have received copies of letters sent to the board for consideration, one from Judith Alexander of the North Avenue District, Inc. and the other from a local business/property owner Marcelo Nicosia.

We welcome a healthy debate surrounding the impact of the proposed special use, a debate based on facts. It is our understanding that Oak Park Village has not prohibited the use we are applying for.

To address issues brought up in both Ms. Alexander's and Mr. Nicosia's letters to the board please consider the following

- 1. Parking city ordinance requires 1 dedicated off street space for every 500sqft of banquet space. Miranda Hall has 11 spaces and we will dedicate three to event guests during events.
- 2. Noise Miranda Hall will offer usage during hours dictated by the zoning board. In addition, we will regulate amplified sound not to exceed 60db as heard from the exterior of the building.
- 3. Waste Management Miranda Hall will provide adequate trash receptacles and schedule additional collection as needed.
- 4. Guest Behavior/Types of events Miranda Hall will offer the venue for families and business to host events such as birthday parties, baby/bridal showers, poetry readings, team building etc. Miranda Hall has never and will never knowingly offer the space for any nightclub type events.

We put forth that based on the above our application for a special use should be considered and awarded based on the ordinances in place at this time.

# <u>In response to the letter dated April 28, 2022 from Judith Alexander representing the North Avenue</u> <u>District, Inc.</u>

Please refer to the letter dated April 28, 2022, to the Village of Oak Park Zoning Board of Appeals, from: Judith Alexander, Chair, The North Avenue District, Inc. with the subject of: Special Use Zoning for The Miranda Hall, 6435 North Avenue. The first page of the letter addresses essentially the subject just

addressed above, however the second page of the letter includes some very strong assumptions that are not supported by fact. To make a statement "we don't trust those who run it" is a very bold and combative statement.

In light of this inflammatory statement, we would like to introduce Miranda Hall to the Board and address each statement as they were presented in the April 28<sup>th</sup> letter to the Board.

Miranda Hall is owned and operated by Ms. Chetrandra Gray. She is the founder of the Michael Gray Foundation of Dreams, named for her son. When Ms. Gray took over ownership of this space it had most recently been a massage parlor that was closed down for prostitution. She renovated and created a space that currently houses a day care, offices for small business owners, the hall for community gatherings and potentially other uses. Please see Exhibit 1

**STATEMENT:** The North Avenue District sadly but strongly opposes The Miranda Hall's special use **zoning** as a reception/banquet facility. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization of stakeholders—business/property owners and residents--working since 2013 to revitalize North Avenue. Our factsheet is attached.

RESPONSE: Miranda Hall is owned by the Michael Gray Foundation a 501c3 organization that is established to provide support to its community.

STATEMENT: Until this year, we've always supported zoning variances/special uses.

RESPONSE: This is not relevant to the issue before the board today

**STATEMENT:** But a reception/banquet hall in The Miranda Hall as is not in the best interest of our district as a whole. That's our consistent decision standard. We hope that you will apply this standard now.

RESPONSE: We do not find any statements that support that this use would affect the district as a whole.

**STATEMENT:** We oppose this application because **6435 North Avenue is an inappropriate location for a reception hall and** because **we don't trust those who run it**.

RESPONSE: We will address the first statement regarding the opinion that Miranda Hall is an inappropriate location first. And the trust statement second.

6435 North Avenue is no place for an event venue. Photos are attached by way of illustration.

**STATEMENT:** It **shares walls** with two office buildings.

RESPONSE: Mindful scheduling of usage will address most if not all noise concerns for the two office buildings.

**STATEMENT:** With only 11 parking spaces--most of which are used by employees and customers, even after 5 pm—it has almost no parking for event attendees.

RESPONSE: Our understanding of the parking ordinance requires 1 dedicated off street space for every 500 sqft. We have three dedicated spaces for the Miranda Hall when in use.

**STATEMENT:** It's **directly across an alley from a residential area**, with only the small parking area as a buffer.

RESPONSE: As long as the sound is managed at or below 60db at the exterior, noise should not be a concern.

**STATEMENT:** This configuration makes it **inevitable that** commercial and residential **neighbors** will be **disturbed** by loud music and litter, **and** that there will be **significant parking conflicts**.

RESPONSE: We have addressed these concerns above

STATEMENT: We contacted the 16 residents living closest to Miranda Hall and heard back from seven.

RESPONSE: 6 out of 16 voiced concerns, and 10 out of 16 did not

**STATEMENT**: Six **complained of loud music and trash/litte**r in their front yards--including liquor bottles and beer cans. One resident found many empty liquor bottles in his trash can after the weekend of 3/25, when there was a Miranda Hall party.

RESPONSE: Unless this resident can 100% assign the empty bottles in their trash to an attendee at Miranda Hall this should not be considered in the appeal.

The **owner of the building next door also has complaints.** 

RESPONSE: No specifics were included so no response can be made

**STATEMENT:** Indeed, our entire district is no place for event venues.

RESPONSE: This is a broadly inclusive statement. It is our understanding that the North Avenue District tolerates other event venues or establishments that hold events in the Oak Park Village. True they may not be the exact same type of events but they are event venues nonetheless.

Unfortunately, with such inflammatory statements being put forth on a public platform we cannot omit the observation that this smacks of a 'Not in My Back Yard' attitude. We also need to acknowledge that there are many unofficial assemblies in existing businesses that are not and have never even applied for the proper permit.

STATEMENT: We'll try to get this use rezoned as non-permitted, as it is elsewhere Oak Park.

RESPONSE: This is not the matter before the board today.

**STATEMENT: They're public nuisances**. We've had partygoers noisily returning to their cars under the influence, urinating in gardens, and sometimes getting into fights.

RESPONSE: Is the "They're" referring to all event spaces or just Miranda Hall? Are you stating as fact that partygoers from Miranda Hall have gotten into fights? Walked to their cars under the influence? Urinated in gardens? This is a strong statement without dates, times and/or proof.

**STATEMENT:** Banquet halls in the Chicago area are traditionally stand-alone structures with ample parking. (See attached photos of Royal Garden Banquet, 2515 N. Harlem, Chicago.) But in our district, there's no room for such a venue. Parking is very limited. Lots are shallow. Most commercial structures share walls. Residential areas are right across an alley with no--or almost no—buffer.

RESPONSE: To compare a community space with a maximum occupancy of 49 to an event venue that has an occupancy upwards of 150 guests seated is not illustrative of the issue before the board. We agree there is no room for an event space for 150+ people and we are not applying for that.

STATEMENT: We're glad this long-vacant property is occupied. We appreciate how it's been remodeled.

RESPONSE: Ms. Gray, the Michael Gray Foundation of Dreams took over this building from a recently shut down place of prostitution and created a day care, office space and an assembly space for local families and businesses.

STATEMENT: Ordinarily, we probably would go along with The Miranda Hall's special use zoning for a short time—perhaps six months initially--subject to compliance with a series of conditions. We've developed a set of such stipulations in case you decide to go that route, which are attached.

RESPONSE: The NADI states that opposing event venues is and has been their decision standard all along. That they do not consider this business operation to be a good fit for the Village, however here they state that "Ordinarily, we probably would go along with The Miranda Hall's special use zoning for a short time". What is the difference between a long-term or short-term use?

STATEMENT: But we don't believe that such stipulations will be honored. And if they're not, it will take considerable Village time and resources before The Miranda Hall can be made to cease operations. In the meantime, commercial and residential neighbors will continue contending with a public nuisance. Doesn't it make sense to prevent a future public nuisance now?

RESPONSE: The NADI has presented nothing that supports the conclusion that Miranda Hall will not adhere to conditionals. And please keep in mind that there is an unknown number of spaces in Oak Park Village that hold gatherings that have never applied for a permit, they are acting outside of local ordinances. Miranda Hall being permitted allows for the Village authorities to be aware and can hold them accountable to what essentially constitutes a contract of use.

**STATEMENT:** We have **good reasons not to trust those responsible for The Miranda Hall** to run a good operation.

RESPONSE: Please consider the fact that Ms. Alexander did not meet with the applicant, Ms. Gray to confirm or gather any information. She depended on hearsay, employees limited knowledge, and google.

**STATEMENT:** It **took them weeks to take down** Miranda Hall's **Facebook page** after the Village told them to do so, until Ms. Gray was informed of the problem. **They also rented to a large party** the last weekend in March, though the Village told them not to do so. **They should have been especially** motivated to be on best behavior while awaiting this hearing. If they didn't comply then, how can we expect them to do so *after* they receive special use zoning?

RESPONSE: This statement from NADI neglects to address that Miranda Hall is taking every required step to legally operate a space for community gatherings of 49 or less persons. In the past 20 years no one can recall any other space that was/is used for assembly applying for such a permit and that alone demonstrates that they are interested in doing things legal and by the book

**STATEMENT:** They told us that they always supervise parties, both within the facility and in front/behind the building. But that didn't happen in late March nor other times, according to neighbors.

RESPONSE: How do the neighbors identify guests vs. employees? Do the neighbors know each and every employee? This is not a supported statement of fact.

**STATEMENT:** They told us they're happy with Miranda Hall's 49-person capacity. According to the fire marshal, its inward-opening doors were permissible for that capacity. But they changed its doors to open out—a requirement for increased capacity.

RESPONSE: "We don't trust those who run it" read this statement and be sure you understand the full weight of this statement.

The fact that they attempted to increase their capacity is not demonstrative of them being untrustworthy. It was consistent with the recent application. Most businesses explore ways to increase their revenues. HOWEVER: Since this rehanging of the doors, it was determined that the change did not increase the capacity and the operators at Miranda Hall agreed that they are fine with the 49 max occupancy and that is still their position.

**STATEMENT:** We were told that the Michael Gray Foundation of Dreams is running The Miranda Hall. All three board members share a surname—

RESPONSE: I contacted Ms. Alexander and she could not provide but one name of a board member, she could not or would not identify the three persons she is referring to in this statement.

**STATEMENT:** there are **no independent board members**. And there are **reasons to think that they may** have misrepresented who they are:

RESPONSE: We do not understand what point is being made here. According to our internet research the IRS website provided the following:

Q: Can my board of directors contain family members?

 $\underline{A}$ : Yes, but be aware that the IRS encourages specific governance practices for 501(c)(3) board composition. In general, having related board members is not expressly prohibited

If local or other laws require a different configuration the Michael Gray Foundation will follow the law and make changes if any are needed.

THERE IS NO MISREPRESENTATION HERE. THE IMPLICATION OF DUPLICITY IS UNFOUNDED

**STATEMENT:** As of April 23rd, there was **no listing for The Michael Gray Foundation of Dreams in the State of IL charitable organization database:** <a href="https://charitableviewer.ilag.gov/">https://charitableviewer.ilag.gov/</a>

RESPONSE: This does not necessarily mean that they intentionally misrepresenting themselves or untrustworthy. This information was gathered by NADI representative Judith Alexander. We contacted her and she said that she got this information from employees at the place of business. Employees are typically not fully informed on the inner workings of business entities. AT NO TIME DID MISS ALEXANDER CONTACT THE OWNER PERMIT APPLICANT TO CLARIFY THIS POINT. When Ms. Alexander was asked why she stated that she did not she cited that she did not have time. That she tried but she also cancelled two such meetings due to the unfulfilled need for a second board member to be present.

In addition, many businesses learn as they go including non-profits. I would think that in the spirit of the NADI a helping had would be more in line than unfounded accusations.

**STATEMENT:** When we asked about their primary mission, they said it was daycare after some hesitation. But daycare services are not mentioned on the Foundation <a href="https://www.michaelgrayfoundationofdreams.org/">https://www.michaelgrayfoundationofdreams.org/</a> website:

RESPONSE: this is because she was interviewing an employee, again why not ask the owner applicant?

**STATEMENT:** They said they mentor at-risk youth in Lawndale. But there is no space for such services at 2800 W. Roosevelt--the address listed as their headquarters. Their website states they mentor delinquent youth.

RESPONSE: Again, no conversation with the owner applicant, if asked the answer might say 'we need to update our webpage'. And how does this relate to the special use permit application? When asked Ms. Alexander stated there was no time to contact the owner but they were able to contact EIGHT ATTORNEYS, THE STATE OF IL CHARITABLE DATABASE AND A RETIRING SOCIAL WORKER

STATEMENT: We queried **eight attorneys who serve in Cook County's Delinquency Court**. So far, **all say they've never heard of MGF**.

When a retiring social worker sent an email inquiry about volunteering, no one responded.

RESPONSE: All in all, the statement that the applicant is untrustworthy and misrepresenting their business operations is frankly inappropriate and unfounded. When businesses are singled out such as Miranda Hall it begs the question what is the motivation of the author of this letter? This is not the first time that Ms. Alexander while representing the NADI board has aggressively opposed a use permit filed for Miranda Hall. The position the NADI or Ms. Alexander has taken without any interface or conversation with Ms. Gray is uncalled for and questionable. Ms. Alexander has been at their place of business frequently taking pictures, driving by slowly or just lurking around outside of the day care in the building. This is causing concern and is disruptive to the fully licensed businesses at that location. This is the case as recently as May 23<sup>rd</sup> of this week.

STATEMENT: Mark Santoyo purchased the 6435-6441 North Avenue building. His 6441 Oak Park, Inc. company began remodeling in 2018. He's a real estate professional-
<a href="https://www.thesantoyogroup.com/">https://www.thesantoyogroup.com/</a>. He knew--or should have known--that banquet/reception halls are a special use in our district. Why didn't he apply for a building permit that included a place of assembly? Approving special use zoning now rewards this omission.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is a perfect example of the unfounded accusations made by Ms. Alexander and the Board of the NADI. Why is this even included in this letter?! The fact that this is included demonstrates that Ms. Alexander will use misinformation to attempt to support the NADI's position even when it is unrelated and unfounded. And how can she state that the former owner should have known anything!

RESPONSE: Ms. Gray did not omit anything. She was not the owner of the property at that time Mr. Santoyo owned the building. How can Marinda Hall answer for the former owner's choices? Just because they did not apply for a special use for assembly does not mean it is some fault of the Miranda Hall, and how is this considered a reward for an omission when the omission was made by a different owner of the building? Miranda hall is applying for the permit as required by the village and in doing so Miranda Hall should be rewarded for doing things by the book.

This concludes the statement and response to the April 28, 2022 letter from Ms. Judith Alexander to the Zoning Board of Appeals in the matter of the special use permit application for Miranda Hall.

#### In response to the letter dated April 27, 2022 from Marcelo Nicosia

Mr. Nicosia shares a wall with the Miranda Hall space. He has cited many occasions where waste management was a key issue. We have addressed that above.

He has also voiced concerns about guests' behavior and the type of gathering held at the hall in the past. With all due respect he cannot state what type of gatherings have been held at the hall. We do however recognize that some guests may make noise that is temporarily disruptive. To address his concerns Miranda Hall will adhere to the above plan of use and avoid any gatherings that have a known potential for rowdy or loud behavior. Please refer to Exhibit 2 a letter from one of the neighbors, Eugene Renfroe of 1229 N Rossell which is ~70ft from the hall dated May 19, 2022 which counters many of the statements made by both Ms. Alexander and Mr. Nicosia in regards to noise, loitering, rowdy behavior,

illegal activities, trash and rodents. In addition, Dr. Kruti Maniar of 1235 N Rossell which is ~40 ft from Miranda Hall is in support of this use permit and has had no complaints.

In addition, please see exhibits 3-7 taken from the statement by Mr. Nicosia. His letter included 14 pictures and we have included 5. Please refer to all of the 14 images he provided. We conclude that they show a very clean area, without food waste or trash on the ground in all but one picture, no signs of rodents or other issues. We acknowledge that there is trash in the dumpsters that includes foil pans. And we acknowledge that increased pickups are needed and be sure to schedule those accordingly.

This concludes the statement and response to the April 27, 2022 letter from Mr. Marcelo Nicosia to the Zoning Board of Appeals in the matter of the special use permit application for Miranda Hall.

We ask that the Zoning Board of Appeals approve this request for special use with agreed to limitations that consider the community as a whole. Neighborhoods with families and businesses need gathering places, and making a local - safe place for families to celebrate enriches any community. This should not be a question of if, but how this can be done in an equitable, considerate and legal way. Allowing a gathering place of *reasonable size* and use is not by definition contrary to the revitalization of North Avenue from Austin to Harlem.

Again, we would like to thank the board for their consideration of the proposed special use for Miranda Hall and trust that the outcome will be supported by review of relevant and factual considerations.

Respectfully,

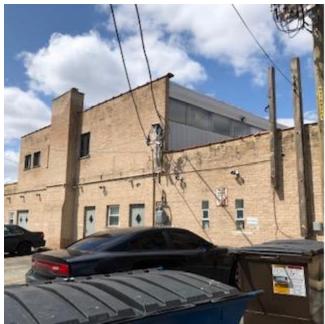
Chetrandra Gray



East view, 6435-6441 North



West view



Rear east view

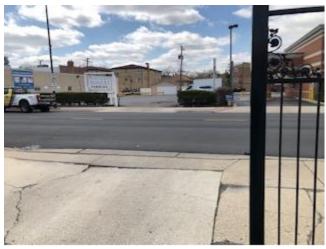


Rear west view

### Photos of Royal Garden Banquets, 2515 N. Harlem, Chicago



Front view, parking lot on left



Royal Garden parking lot across the street

#### Bruce, Michael

From:

Johnnie Allen < jmallen.1844@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, May 1, 2022 3:51 PM

To:

Bruce, Michael; Chetrandaeg@yahoo.com

**Subject:** 

Re: 6435 W. North Avenue, Oak Park, IL

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

Flag Status:

Flagged

WARNING- EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, do not click links/attachments. Never give out your user ID or password.

Johnnie M.R. Allen 216 S. Maple Avenue, #31 Oak Park, IL 60302

May 1, 2022

**TO:** Michael Bruce –

Zoning Administrator - Village of Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Mbruce@oak-park.us

Dear Mr. Bruce:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the "Michael Grey Foundation of Dreams" associated with The Miranda Hall" located at 6435 W. North Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302.

My name is Johnnie Allen, I am a resident of Oak Park and have been for the past twenty-nine (29) years, residing in the Decker Condominium Building on Maple Avenue. I am the President of the Condo Association. I recently retired from Associated, Inc. in Rolling Meadows, IL. as Senior VP – Commercial Insurance Marketing.

It has come to my attention that there are concerns regarding the usage of the before mentioned "Miranda Hall," I have personally visited the facility where we hosted my uncle's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. I am extremely impressed with the facility (professional, clean, welcoming, caring staff, just to mention a few things).

The is a Special use facility – Alcohol free venue, family gatherings, i.e., gender reveal, book signing, day care etc. Our community can benefit with more venues like this one in question.

I personally know the owner of the building; family oriented; a successful business owner; a kind and caring individual going beyond the call of duty in many aspects, especially helping with the care of my 100-year-old uncle.

This Special Use facility is a positive influence in the community; a facility where events can take place, without traveling miles to achieve what can be offered right here in our own community. With that being said, I trust that this business will be allowed to continue operating in our community.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Allen – Oak Park Resident

#### **Bruce, Michael**

From:

G GKnight <ggknight@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 10:13 AM

To:

Bruce, Michael

Subject:

Fwd: 6435 W North Ave

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

Flag Status:

Flagged

WARNING- EXTERNAL EMAIL: If unknown sender, do not click links/attachments. Never give out your user ID or password.

Dear Zoning Administration Team,

We hope all is well. We received this message but did not have a chance to view it until now. With regards to the business located at 6435 W North Ave, please see our previous email (at the bottom) regarding our experience. We wish them success in their ventures. We hope that the ZBA was previously able to accommodate their request to conduct their religious services.

Sincerely,

Kruti and Guido

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Judith Alexander < jalexander@n-ave.com>

Date: Sun, May 1, 2022 at 10:56 PM Subject: RE: 6435 W North Ave

To: G GKnight < ggknight@gmail.com >

Dear Kruti and Guido:

On Wednesday night, the Zoning Board of Appeals will decide whether to permit the Miranda Hall space—6435 W North--to be rented out for more parties. (A ZBA decision already has been made about the church meeting in that space.)

If you would like the ZBA to take your experience into consideration, I encourage you to send them a brief email c/o the zoning administrator: <a href="mailto:bruce@oak-park.us">bruce@oak-park.us</a>. It should be sent by close of business Tuesday, 5/3, so that it can be forwarded to ZBA members.

Thanks, and have a great week.

All the best,
Judith
Judith Alexander
Chair, The North Avenue District, Inc.
jalexander@n-ave.com
Mobile (708) 772-3702
Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/107435609823334/
Follow us on Twitter: @DistrictNorthAv
From: G GKnight <ggknight@gmail.com></ggknight@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 6:03 PM  To: Judith Alexander < <u>jalexander@n-ave.com</u> >  Subject: Re: 6435 W North Ave
Subject: Re. 6455 W North Ave
Dear Judith,
bear Juditii,
Thank you for the follow up. We are unlikely to be able to attend the second meeting about the special use as a banque hall venue, but we appreciate the notification. Similarly, we will avail ourselves of the newsletter at a future date but we
do not need to be added to the distribution list at this time.
Unfortunately, we cannot offer any incides as to the experiences of athers with the hydrogen and the appealaints. Our
Unfortunately, we cannot offer any insight as to the experiences of others with the business and the complaints. Our

experience has been a pleasant one. Your printed notice was the first time we were made aware that there could be an issue. We are encouraged by the growth of businesses and community organizations such as this one along our North Ave corridor. We can only hope that they thrive and develop a mutually supportive partnership with the neighbors.

Hello Mr. Bruce,

My name is Eugene Renfroe and I reside at 1229 N. Rossell Ave. and have been there for approximately 26 years. I raised 2 children thru the Oak Park school system and frankly that is why we moved to Oak Park.

I am writing to you on behalf of our new neighbor Chet Gray who in my opinion did a wonderful job remodelling the building on North Ave. 6435-41 against the unforeseen circumstances of Covid and how that affected his construction efforts. Mr. Chet Gray took me on a tour during construction and after as we got to know each other since he and I would run into each other while I was walking my dog.

I am letting you no that not once did I ever hear loud music, people gathering in the alley and drinking or smoking illegal substances, no gun shots, no dead bodies or did I ever notice anything going on that looked even slightly Illegal.

I haven't noticed excessive trash nor rodents since Mr.Gray has opened his businesses. I find it encouraging that we have a building on our block not abandoned. His tenants and patrons have been pleasant and friendly and I hope everyone would be as welcoming to the diversity that Oak Park is known to have in the past.

If I can be of any further assistance to you and the zoning board feel free to stop by and talk to me or call me. Eugene Renfroe (708) 261-2212.

Sincerely,

Eugene Renfroe

Miranda's Hall 6435 W. North Ave.

Oak Park, IL.

Greetings,

My name is Sergeant Willie McLaughlin. We held a poetry book signing event at your venue in Oak Park, IL.

This event was to promote the book of poetry (Peace In A Palm), by Author Beverly McLaughlin.

The event was attended by Congressman Danny K. Davis, Radio Personality Marvin Lyles (Gary, Indiana), Clergy from Broadview Missionary Baptist Church, Trinity Community Baptist Church and many other special guests

There were many compliments from our guest on how well the ambiance flowed throughout the room. The design, preparation of hors d'oeuvre and decorations were magnificent.

Thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to experience such a wonderful venue.

## Sergeant Willie McLaughlin