Resolution

Whereas,
   The Union League Club of Chicago is committed to serving “Community and Country” and to ensuring honesty and efficiency in governmental affairs; and

Whereas,
   The July 2008 US Department of Justice (USDOJ) report on conditions at the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) cited deficiencies in health care provided to the incarcerated based in large part on insufficient financial resources; and whereas these deficiencies have occurred despite accreditation of the CCDOC by National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) and the American Correctional Association (ACA); and

Whereas,
   Many CCDOC detainees have Medicaid, or are Medicaid-eligible, at the time of incarceration but lose this coverage at the time of incarceration; and

Whereas,
   NCCHC and ACA accreditation is, in light of the aforementioned USDOJ report, insufficient to insure minimal standards relating to quality of medical care including cost accountability and the provision of appropriate infrastructure and physical facilities; and

Whereas,
   Medicaid funding of incarcerated individuals’ health care, which would require the CCDOC to be accredited by the Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, or JCAHO), would provide Federal and State financial resources that would improve the quality of health care provided to the incarcerated while decreasing the cost of this care to Cook County; and whereas the State of Illinois has passed unfunded legislation (SB1965) permitting state Medicaid coverage for correctional health care; and

Whereas,
   The Concerned Citizens of Cook County LLC, an organization comprised of members of the Union League Club of Chicago, has commissioned a report from the National Public Health and Hospital Institute (NPHHI) titled “Funding of Inmate Health Services: Options to Mitigate the Financial Burden of Providing Health Services to Inmates of the Cook County Jail” that addresses how to improve health care provided by the CCDOC, including providing Medicaid coverage to the incarcerated and obtaining JACHO accreditation; therefore

Be It Resolved,
   That the Board of Directors of the Union League Club of Chicago:

1. Supports the findings and recommendations of the NPHHI report commissioned by the Concerned Citizens of Cook County LLC;

2. Recommends that the CCDOC adopt the recommendations contained within the NPHHI report; and

3. Authorizes the Public Affairs Committee to publicly advocate this position, and to communicate this position to members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, members of the Illinois State Legislature, and to all other appropriate government entities.

Adopted January 27, 2009 by the Board of Directors.

Nina Owen
President

James S. Barber
Secretary