



## *Community Labor Alliance for Public Service*

### **Can We Afford to Privatize the City of Evanston?**

- **Cost Overruns:** Less than a year into the City's contract with Groot Industries for refuse hauling, the company has already raised its prices by \$700,000 for the remainder of the 5-year contract. Who knows what further increases are in store up through 2015? It is a well-documented practice among private contractors in municipalities: bid low, force the city into a long contract, and then raise costs.
- **Costs of Monitoring:** Beyond actual contract costs, the City incurs costs associated with bidding, auditing and monitoring the private contractor. Without spending money on proper oversight, other municipalities have discovered contractors can get away with shoddy or incomplete work and massive cost escalation.
- **Loss of Institutional Knowledge:** Current City of Evanston employees have decades of experience among them. They know every twist and turn of the City's roads, alleys, sewers, parks and traffic lights. They know the neighborhoods. They know what works and what doesn't work. Loss of expertise to an outside private contractor is a steep cost which may not show up on a balance sheet.
- **Loss of Flexibility/Safety:** City of Evanston employees -- who were recently commended by the City Council for their dedicated work during the blizzard of 2011-- are cross-trained to do many different jobs. Employees from several different departments stepped up to run the snow plows and clear the streets. That's how they managed to keep the City going -- by going the extra mile. Services performed by a private company are strictly defined by the precise terms of the vendor's contract. They cannot go even an extra inch, without charging extra dollars. During a weather or security emergency we need the flexibility to coordinate services in-house.
- **Costs of Layoffs:** Further privatization of City services will result in further layoffs. The City must pay unemployment benefits to those employees who have been displaced. Furthermore, those same workers may also qualify for public welfare programs. If the City of Evanston decides to privatize the Public Works Department as many as 40 people could lose their jobs. They would lose income and health insurance. Evanston businesses would lose them as customers.

**Tell Your Alderman: Keep Quality Public Services In-House**

**City of Evanston workers have decades of experience.  
And roots in the community. Tell the City to keep it in-house.**



A 23- year employee of the City of Evanston, Dan ("Chisel") Kwiecinski has worked in both Street and Water Departments. He graduated from Evanston High School and volunteer coached at Pope John Grade School. *"I'm very proud of my service to Evanston; I really care about this City. I don't think any outsider could replace the dedication and know-how of Public Works employees. I literally have roots in Evanston. A tree was planted at Ladd Arboretum in the name of my grandfather, Adam Kwiecinski, a beloved custodian at Washington School."*



Shantray ("Tray") Martin is a 19-year employee of the Sanitation Department and is cross-trained to do snow-plowing and to work across other departments. Tray is an Evanston homeowner and for 16 years he's been a volunteer basketball coach at Fleetwood-Jordain, and also coaches Junior Raiders football. *"I see a lot of the kids I know and their parents while on my route. I love the sense of community here in Evanston. When you take pride in your city, any problems you notice while on the job will get reported. Employees working directly for the City means a faster response and greater accountability."*



Dave Matusek, a 10 year employee of the City, currently does recycling pick up. Like other experienced City employees, Dave is also a good-will ambassador for Evanston. He has rescued children from alley dogs, has found valuables in refuse that he returns to their rightful owners, and helped folks with their groceries. Dave is among the many City workers who also do snow plowing and works with the Police, Traffic, Streets and other departments to work jointly in times of emergency. *"I've watched kids on my route go from grade school to college. We know the City, we know the people. We're connected in every way. If there is suspicious activity, we call the cops. We take pride in serving Evanston."*



Born and raised in Evanston, Hank Daniels is a 1991 graduate of ETHS. He's worked in the Water Department and now Utilities Department as a distribution crew leader. He volunteer coached in the Evanston Jr. Wildkits program for four years. Hank's family goes way back in Evanston. In fact, his great aunt was the first black alderwoman to serve on the City Council. *"I think we are a lot more effective than a private company coming in with little knowledge of the way things work in Evanston. The City means more to us than just a job."*

**Imagine a place without us. Let's not go there.  
We are City of Evanston Workers...accountable only to you.**

