

## ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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**BARACK OBAMA**  
SENATOR • 13TH DISTRICT

## COMMITTEES:

- Public Health & Welfare,  
Minority Spokesperson

## MEMBER:

- Judiciary
- Revenue
- Joint Committee on Administrative  
Rules, Co-Chair
- Child Support Advisory Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STATE SENATOR BARACK OBAMA UNVEILS ENGLEWOOD BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

At a Friday January 14<sup>th</sup> press conference at Englewood High School, State Senator Barack Obama (D-13) unveiled a \$1.1 million dollar Englewood Beautification Plan developed by community residents and leaders. The plan calls for the creation of botanical walk, garden, and fountain on 6.5 blocks of land located directly under the elevated train tracks from 59<sup>th</sup> Place to 62<sup>nd</sup> Place along Princeton Avenue. Senator Obama was joined by Kenny Smith, President of the Chicago Better Housing Association, and Samuel Williams, Principal of Englewood High School. Many students, faculty, staff, and community residents were on hand to attend the press conference.

According to Senator Obama, "This plan complements ongoing efforts to revitalize the Englewood community. Too often we think of revitalizing communities without creating public spaces that beautify the neighborhood and create a sense of neighborhood pride. I will work tirelessly in Springfield and in Chicago to raise public and private dollars to fund this worthy endeavor."

Kenny Smith, added, "I was born and raised in Englewood. I remember how the community once looked, and how the improvement of public spaces can lead to increased development in the neighborhood. I have worked with a variety of governmental agencies and not-for-profit groups to secure funding for this project including the Chicago Transit Authority, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the American Society of Landscape Architecture. We have made some progress toward the goal of securing funding for this project. Senator Obama's commitment to assist in developing resources to fund this project is greatly appreciated."

Samuel Williams, Principal of Englewood High School, offered the following observations. "Englewood High School students and staff, are eager to build and maintain the Englewood gardens. This project provides the unique opportunity for students to have and a hands-on role in the improvement of their community. Our students want to make the community better. The Englewood Garden proposal offers students an opportunity to do so."

Senator Obama was also given an award by the Englewood High School Student Council in recognition of his service to the Englewood community.

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