



INSIDE/OUT

"A conviction does not have to be a life sentence"



Inside/Out talks with Willie Brooks: by Kim Woods



Interview with the 2014
Repatriate Honoree Minister
Willie Brooks:

**Q: Mr. Brooks can you tell us
about your childhood?**

I grew up on the south side of Waukegan, IL and my father was an alcoholic. My grandmother and mother raised me in a single parent home. I didn't have a male role model until I was 12 years old. The men at Shiloh church became my role models. My biological father was abusive and I had to grow up quickly. I was the oldest male and had to provide for my brother and 3 sisters.

Q: How did you start down the path of criminal behavior? In grade school I started my own street gang. Back then I realized that God had a plan for my life because, I was never truly accepted by the bad neighborhood kids. I thought jail was a sign of being cool and I wanted to be like the street thugs in the community. I begin to drink and smoke marijuana. My associations were with people who had no boundaries.

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**Police Stops: What to Do If You Are Pulled Over:
by Martin N. Walker, Esq**

The police are public servants. They are paid to protect and serve the public, however, recent events detail that not all police perform with this creed in mind. The tragic and senseless deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner not only accentuate the fact that minorities are disproportionately targeted, questioned, and arrested by police officers, but also that citizens and police officers speak two different languages. It may not be such a stretch to state that two different cultures collide when the boys in blue encounter the average citizen.

This article is not an attempt to be the Rosetta Stone between you and our public servants, but to educate you that what you say and do in the presence of police officers is judged according to a set of rules. It behooves us as citizens to know the rules and how to best traverse an encounter with the police. In life, there are good and bad people. This is also true of police officers. If a police officer has predetermined for illegal reasons that he or she is going to arrest you, then it's best to know that you've complied with the rules as best possible to make it easy on your attorney! As a criminal defense attorney of nearly 10 years, I can honestly say that many of my clients end up arrested because they don't know how to respond to the police. Although proper responses and etiquette won't always keep you out of handcuffs, it could award you the benefit of the doubt or even save your life. Below are a few pointers to consider:

BE RESPONSIBLE

Stay calm and be polite. Always respect your fellow man. Do not interfere with or obstruct the police. Do not lie or give false documents. Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Remember the details of the encounter, all the way down to what you were wearing that day.

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Patricia Jones, M.Ed
Founder, Chairperson
Waukegan Township
Supervisor

Finding housing and employment are crucial to a former inmate's successful reintegration into society. But after serving their time, many find that they cannot get a job without a home address and cannot find a place to live without the money to pay rent. So they may end up homeless. The Coalition may be able to help with your housing and job needs. For more information call 847-244-4900 or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.

Education is a way to decrease recidivism effectively. It can restore an individual's self-respect and sense of self-worth, paving the way for inmates or parolees to become productive and contributing members of society. The Waukegan Public Library offers an adult literacy program which will allow you to work on your reading, writing and math skills or even earn your GED. They can help you open the door to a better future. The services are provided at no cost for adults in reading, writing, math or speaking English. Yes, ALL classes and programs are free of charge.

When ex-offenders are productively engaged in their communities, working and supporting their families, the community is safer and their families are more economically secure. Please make time to improve your life. Below are a few classes offered by the Waukegan Public Library. Please contact Gale Graves, Education and Literacy Services Manager, 847-623-2041, ext 223/ Email galegraves@waukeganpl.info:

- ◆ **Computer Classes** introduce adults to computers, the internet, and various programs at a beginner, intermediate, or advanced level. Classes are funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- ◆ **Walk-in Reading, Math, and Computer Help** for adults learning to use the computer to improve their reading, writing and math skills.
- ◆ **Walk-in Job Search and Resume Help** focuses on online job searching and resume writing. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- ◆ **Families Learning Together** is a family literacy program covering basic reading, writing, and math skills for both parents and children that builds a foundation for lifelong learning. In addition, an ESL Program helps families of non-native speakers.

I would like to thank the outgoing President Dr. Phil Carrigan for his dedication and service to the Coalition. I look forward to working with the Coalition's newly inducted elected officers with Dr. Mary Roberson, President. We will continue to work together to improve the services provided to former inmates and their families.

About Inside/Out

Inside/Out is a publication of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, which is based in Lake County, IL. The newsletter intends to raise and discuss issues that affect the lives of men, women and children who

are incarcerated and who have been released from incarceration.

The views and opinions included herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the coalition's executive board or its individual members.

If you have news or updates for our newsletter you can send them to: kwoods@waukegantownship.com

**Be sure to visit us on the web at:
www.reducerecidivism.org**

Upcoming Coalition Meetings

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism meets from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. the third Monday of each month at United Way of Lake County, 330 S. Greenleaf St., Gurnee, IL

Please consider joining the growing movement in support of the formerly incarcerated. Annual membership dues goes directly to supportive services on their behalf. Membership dues are as follows:

Corporate & Faith Membership	\$500
Agency	\$150
Individual	\$50
Student	\$20
Senior(65+)	\$20

How to Reach Us:

By Phone: (847) 244-4900

By Fax: (874) 244-5185

By Email:

coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com

By Mail:

Coalition to Reduce Recidivism

149 S. Genesee St.

Waukegan, IL 60085

HB5701 Update: by State Representative Rita Mayfield



HB5701 is the culmination of nearly a decade of advocacy that began thanks to people like State Representative LaShawn K. Ford. His ardent advocacy was later bolstered by Anthony Lowery, One Northside, Affinity Chicago, the Community Renewal Society, the Workers Center for Racial Justice, The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism and especially Todd Belcore of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, who helped forge this practice for state employees, and the hundreds upon hundreds of concerned community members over the years who made their needs heard in the General Assembly. I apologize if I left anyone out.

As a result of all that sustained effort, the business community, legislators from both sides of the aisle and community members came together to craft a bill that would preserve the integrity of the hiring process and the agency of employers while ensuring that people are no longer unjustly prescreened from consideration simply for answering honestly and checking a box indicating they've made a mistake in their past.

This bill will dramatically change the prospects of men and women who have turned their lives around and done everything they can to become qualified job applicants. As of January 1, 2015 their efforts are more likely to be rewarded and result in the job they need to take care of themselves and their loved ones. Glory be to God.

News You Can Use

Coalition Jobs Report



Johnnie Jenkins
Employment Specialist

1,203 Repatriates have obtained employment since August, 2005 through the Coalition.

2015 Stats

- ◆ Over 283 have obtained employment since January.
- ◆ Executive Clemency - 57
- ◆ The Coalition has received 51 Expungement request (31 Pending) (20 (Granted)).
- ◆ 37 Sealing requests with Legal Help Desk Assistance.

Legislative Updates: New laws as of January 1, 2014

- ◆ HB 3061 Allows a person to petition the court to order the sealing of: Class 3 felony conviction records for theft, retail, deceptive practices, forgery, possession of marijuana, possession of control substance.
- ◆ Banning the Box Qualifies Job Applicants Who Have Past Convictions a Fair Shot at Employment.
- ◆ HB 2470 the process to expunge or sealing criminal records are heard in a timely manner.
- ◆ SB 1659 Tax incentive for business owners who employed ex-offenders.
- ◆ HB 1139 Establishes the Gang Crime Witness protection program funds.
- ◆ HB 0183 Conceal and Carry Law (applies only to non ex-offenders).
- ◆ HB 0804 Creates the offense "failure to report sexual abuse of a child" and expands other categories.
- ◆ HB 0958 Increases penalties for domestic battery if the defendant has prior convictions.
- ◆ HB 2404 Makes "minors" persons 17 and under instead of 16 and under for the purpose of delinquency and criminal record.
- ◆ HB 3011 Removes statute of limitations for residential arson.

From The Desk of Dr. Phil Carrigan



Recently, I spoke to John at the Metropolitan Correctional Center. This facility is part of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, located in Chicago and holds about 700 men and thirty women. Most individuals are detainees awaiting trial and the disposition of their case.

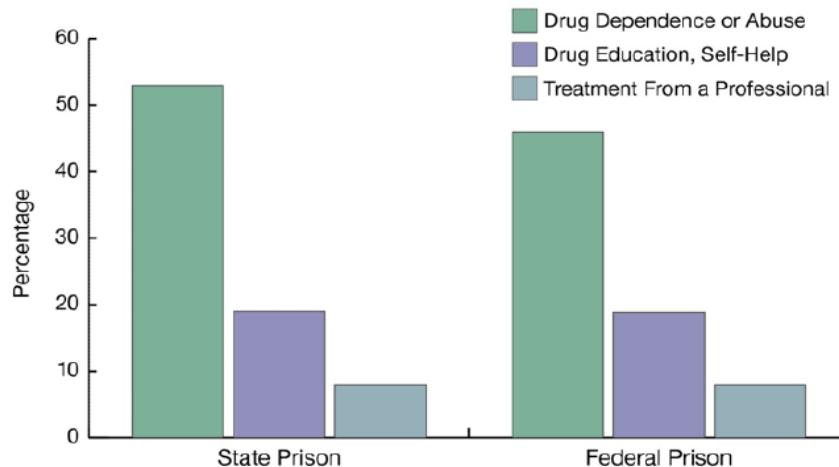
We spoke about aspects of his present situation. He is visited by his mother and 10-year old daughter every other Sunday. This seems to be an important part of his life. I asked why we hadn't seen him during these last months. He said he didn't want to take anyone's place. This day he was the only one who came off the 15th floor.

I redirected my comments to the substance abuse conviction and the new case. John didn't know about any AA or NA groups in the facility. Later, I asked a staff member and was informed John would need to send a 'cop-out' (a note) to the psychologist. When he didn't know this mechanism, I emphasized he should ask a counselor about being sentenced to drug treatment BoP program (there is one in Texas).

Many of us would raise a question in our workplace, when looking for a product in a store and not let fail to get information of need or importance. Correctional institutions are authoritative settings, one may have learned not to ask or get info from a peer.

I'll give John the details on accessing the twelve-step meeting at MCC and determining how to be assigned to facility where a drug treatment is offered when he is sentenced.

Many Prison Inmates Have a Drug Use Disorder... But Few Receive Treatment



Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics: Mumola & Karberg, 2006, revised January 2007; Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004.

12th Annual Coalition Job Fair/Luncheon



For More Information:

149 S. GENESEE STREET, WAUKEGAN, IL 60085 | 847-244-4900 |
CDUNLAP@WAUKEGANTOWNSHIP.COM

A fresh approach to recidivism

Re. "Catch a cold, go to prison," Editorial.

This editorial's brilliant parsing of the word "recidivism" has major implications for public policy, including prison overcrowding and, even more important, how parolees are treated.

As proposed, technical violations of parole such as missing an appointment or even failing a drug test should not be considered recidivism. Such violations should be evaluated within the context of the individual. For example, is the violator a first-time, nonviolent offender (felon or not)? Is the violator holding a job, going to school or otherwise being a good or even contributing citizen?

Officers should have other options besides re-arresting, including helping to maintain the good and healthy aspects of the parolees' lives, drug rehabilitation and other health programs, educational programs and even temporary financial aid or living arrangements.

*George Wolkon
Pacific Palisades*

Interview with Minister Willie Brooks:

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Q: Was there a time when you wanted to change the bad behavior?

Yes, I married at 20, had 4 children, and moved to Detroit. I saw it as moving from a small town to the big city but this opened me up to bigger problems. I still maintained a full time job and sold drugs. I was big time because I was selling to entertainers and people with money to spend. I ended up getting a divorce.

Q: When did you hit rock bottom?

The street life became normal life for me. God kept limits on me. There was always drugs around and my life was out of control. I lost everything and knew I was in the entrance to Hell. I married my third wife. This time something told me that she was going to be in my life forever. She became my protector. I moved back to Waukegan and went to Victory Rehab Center. That's when I became filled with the Holy Spirit. I was blessed with a car and a home. I started a support group for people addicted to drugs. I was doing God's will but, the streets of Detroit were calling me back. I let all those people down who believed in me. For the next 13 years I was going to church but my lifestyle was rejecting God. I actually told God that I was not done with the devil. God in his mercy allowed me to live 13 years with this attitude. See, I had a wife who loved God and prayed night and day for me. I began to understand the power of God. God delivered me from all the personal demons and destructive behavior.

Q: How have you helped others?

I started the Brother Willie Fellowship Bus. God blessed me with a snow cone machine and I would take the machine all over to different events and shows. I was able to speak directly to brothers on the street. I gave a message of hope and how they must turn their life around. We have to bring back the value of being a man. Strong men don't live in the past, don't give up, and don't quit! We have to surround men with LOVE. Let them know that God's love is the light that will bring them out of darkness. Whatever you've done it's not that bad that God can't turn it around. If God can do it for me...he will do it for you.

Working Together

In each edition, we will feature a service organization who offers services to assist former inmates and their families.



The Family First Center of Lake County (F.F.C.) was born out of the vision of many dedicated individuals. It's a "Faith Based", Not-for-Profit Organization that is committed to bringing about positive change in this community. The programs and services are designed to empower the entire family with the necessary tools to change their lives:

Counseling, Wellness For Life, Victory-Life Skills, Emergency Services, Health & Awareness, Career Education, G.R.I.P (Gang Resistance Intervention & Prevention).

Family First Center of Lake County

202 Genesee Street

Waukegan, IL 60085

Phone: 847-244-4374

Fax: 847-244-4582

E-mail: ffscenter@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Evelyn Chenier, (Executive Director)

www.facebook.com/family1stcenter

Office Hours:

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST

The privatization of US Prisons

PRIVATE PRISONS ARE BACK...

Outlawed at the beginning of the 20th Century, private corporations are once again owning and operating prisons for profit. A controversial issue which dates back to the days that followed the Emancipation Proclamation. Check out the next issue of Inside/Out for more information on this current trend.



LEGAL HELP DESK

The Coalition's Legal Help Desk has volunteer lawyers that offer free legal advice to people with criminal convictions and determine their eligibility for expungement and sealing. Hours are 1st Friday of the month from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. Volunteer Attorney On-Site to Assist with Expungement and Sealing Applications.

Walk In Preferred

Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office
149 S. Genesee Street., Waukegan IL 60085
For information Call - 847-244-4900

BRING YOUR RAP SHEET

(CRIMINAL HISTORY)

Adult Criminal Lake County Cases:
Request your rap sheet at the Lake County Clerk's Building, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL 60085, Basement Floor. Office open from 9am-5pm. Service fees required.
For more information, please call (847) 244-4900.

Did you know?

Arrests and acquittals are expungeable. Guilty pleas, probation, supervision and convictions, are not. The filing fee for an expungement is \$60.

Information on how to file for an expungement is available through the Lake County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, or online at:

www.lakecountylil.gov/CircuitClerk/CivilCriminal/Pages/Expungements.aspx

Help is also available at:
www.illinoislegalaid.org



Police Stops: What to Do If You Are Pulled Over by: Martin N. Walker, Esq

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IF A POLICE OFFICER STOPS YOU

You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud. However, given the Salinas v. Texas, Docket No. 12-246, Opinion June 17, 2013, it is best to affirmatively invoke your right to an attorney even if you are only being questioned if you don't want your silence and actions used against you! You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home. Police often use a direct tone and affirmative language as if the search of your person or entry into your home is their right. Don't fall for it!

If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave. It's always best to first ask "Am I under arrest? May I leave?" before leaving so that it's not taken as flight. Flight ALWAYS looks guilty. Walk away calmly and silently.

You have the right to a lawyer if you are arrested. Ask for one out loud and immediately. It's best to memorize the number of a good attorney; you may not have access to your phone, wallet or purse.

calmly leave. Even if the officer says no, you have the right to remain silent.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

Do not! DO NOT! Resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair. Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't give any explanations or excuses. If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have the right to a free one. Don't say anything, sign anything or make any decisions without a lawyer.

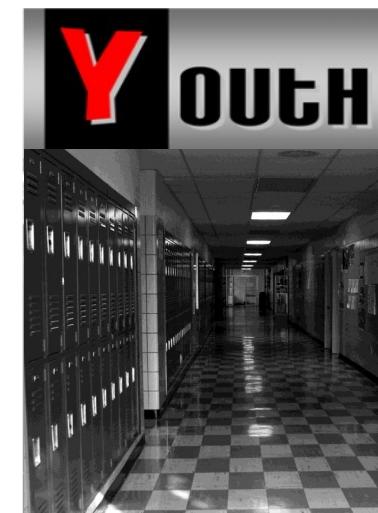
You have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.

Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Memorize the phone numbers of your family and your lawyer. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.

Special considerations for non-citizens:

- a. Ask your lawyer about the effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status.
- b. Don't discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.
- c. While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you.
- d. Do not answer questions or sign anything before talking to a lawyer.

Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, tell the officer you need an interpreter.



Summit

Save The Date

Saturday May 2nd, 2015

10:00 am - 1:00 pm



11th Annual Coalition Job Fair & Luncheon

On Friday, October 10, 2014, the Coalition continued its mission to help ex-offenders, become self sufficient and productive citizens of the community. The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism hosted its 11th Annual Luncheon and Job Fair at the Milan Banquet Hall, 651 Lakehurst Road in Waukegan, IL.

The Coalition believes that anyone who clings to the belief that serving time in prison constitutes "paying one's debt to society" has obviously never done time or tried to get a job after being released. Even if your crime was non-violent and non-invasive and your time in prison was relatively short, when you get out and apply for a job, you quickly learn that you now carry an ineradicable stigma. Because of the stigma, the Coalition presented a full day devoted to improve the success rates of former inmates who are returning to their communities after serving their terms. The job fair was free of charge and open to the public. It began at 9:30am with employment vendors on site to interview and accept resumes. A reception followed at 11:30am and the Luncheon began at noon. This year's celebration featured a panel of dynamic guest speakers: Gladys C. Taylor -Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections and Dr. Michele Vaughn - CEO, Teen & Single Mom Resource Center. This year's list of Honorees were: Chief Jennifer Witherspoon, Dr. Michele Vaughn, Willie Brooks, Anne Courtright, Judge Jorge L. Ortiz, Dr. Wadell Brooks, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church/Pastor Gerald Wilcoxon, Pastors Robert and Debbie Richards, Eleanor Murkey, and Goodwill Industries. Other attendees were; Honorary Chairs Congressman Danny Davis who served as Master of Ceremony, State Representative Rita Mayfield, Waukegan Township Supervisor Patricia Jones-Coalition Board Chair, Phil Carrigan, Ph.D, Coalition President, Richard Keller, MD, and 11th Annual Luncheon Chairperson.

On January 26th, 2015, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism inducted its newly elected officers at the monthly meeting.

Pictured are the 2015 Coalition Executive Officers with Chief Judge John T. Phillips:

Chairperson - Patricia Jones
President - Mary Roberson, EdD.
Vice President - Jennifer Witherspoon, Esq.
Treasurer - Arlene Day
Past President - Phil Carrigan, PhD



Message from Dr. Mary Roberson, President Coalition to Reduce Recidivism

Greetings to all,

As we embark upon a new year and a new state administration, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism (C2RR) and its membership are positioned to do wonderful and exciting things for the community we serve. The C2RR officers stand ready and willing to utilize the knowledge, skills and abilities of many years in social services to support and promote its mission and vision. Our taglines "No More Victims" and "A Conviction Does Not Have To Be A Life Sentence" speaks volumes to the tasks ahead.

As the newly elected President, I am committed to all of the annual initiatives and to increasing the C2RR membership. I am reminded of the old adage "to whom much is given much is required." It gives me great honor and I feel very privileged to be surrounded by an outstanding group of individuals who are called to serve our youth and returning citizens.

Looking ahead, the C2RR, along with its outstanding Board of Directors will forge new relationships, impact legislation, change lives and create new memories for our returning citizens. I look forward to partnering with the Lake County community to organize, educate and advocate for such an important cause. Won't you join me!!!!