

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Deborah L. Graham, 29th Ward Alderman & Committeeman

As Alderman and Committeeman of the City of Chicago's 29th Ward, Deborah L. Graham brings with her to the Chicago City Council the ambitious agenda she advanced during her four terms as an Illinois State Representative.

First elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 2002, Graham rose to be a respected leader and compassionate voice for people facing severe economic and social barriers. In particular, Graham carved out a distinguished record supporting legislation involving gun control, health care accessibility, cracking down on predatory lending, expanding environmental protection, and increasing child safety. Graham was re-elected to the General Assembly in 2004, 2006, and 2008.

In 2010, former Mayor Richard M. Daley showed his recognition of Deborah Graham's impressive leadership record and community support as a State Representative, by appointing her 29th Ward Alderman. In 2011, Graham was elected by 29th Ward constituents to serve a full-term.

Alderman Deborah L. Graham is now Vice-Chairman for the City Council Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety, and also serves on the Rules and Ethics Committee; Budget and Government Operations Committee; Finance Committee; License and Consumer Protection Committee; Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation Committee; Transportation and Public Way Committee, and Zoning, Landmarks & Building Standards Committee.

Graham holds a Bachelor's Degree from Robert Morris University in Business Administration.

Karen Weigert, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Chicago

Karen Weigert serves as Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago. She was appointed in 2011. As Chief Sustainability Officer Karen works to guide the City's sustainability strategy and implementation, bringing innovative, practical solutions throughout the work of the City.

Prior to her appointment Karen served as Senior Vice President of ShoreBank (later Urban Partnership Bank) where she built a national consumer group that generated deposits to support environmental sustainability and community development in low to moderate income urban neighborhoods. Before her work in community banking Karen was a strategy consultant at McKinsey where she served clients on topics including transportation, finance, energy and land use. Karen began her career as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs and later served as an appointee in the Clinton administration focused on global environmental issues and agriculture.

Karen is a producer and writer for the documentary film *Carbon Nation* which is focused on solutions to climate change. She is also a former board member of CNT, Foresight Design Initiative and Earth School Educational Foundation.

Karen graduated from the University of Notre Dame (Phi Beta Kappa) and Harvard Business School.

Lois Scott, Chief Financial Officer, City of Chicago

Lois Scott is currently serving as the first female Chief Financial Officer for the City of Chicago. With nearly 30 years of financial experience that includes a portfolio of client projects valued at over \$60 billion, Mayor Rahm Emanuel has entrusted Lois and her team to help him dig Chicago out of an approximately \$600 million budget hole.

Before joining the city, she was co-founder and President of the firm, Scott Balice Strategies LLC that in just eight years became one of the largest financial advisory firms in the country with offices in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Anchorage and Houston.

She serves on the board of several organizations, including Children's Memorial Hospital (policy committee), Leadership Greater Chicago, National Louis University, Better Government Association, North Avenue Day Nursery, City Lit Theater Company, The Bond Club of Chicago and Homeboyz Interactive, among others.

Lois is well known as one of the founders of Women in Public Finance, a national conference that now brings together 500 people in the public finance industry. She also was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the "Women of the Year" event honoring the accomplishments of women in the public finance industry. Lois' work has been recognized by many, including Crain's Chicago Business "40 under 40", "Women in Black" for top women in technology, Today's Chicago Woman's list of "Most Influential Women in Chicago" and as a leading entrepreneur in National Journal, Forbes Small Business and BusinessWeek websites.

Lois earned her bachelor's and MBA at Cornell University by the age of 22.

Susana Mendoza, City Clerk of Chicago

Susana Mendoza was sworn in as City Clerk of Chicago on May 16, 2011 and is the first woman ever elected to the Office of the City Clerk. Before City Clerk, she proudly served six terms as a Democratic member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 2001 to 2011, representing the 1st District of Illinois - which includes the Chicago communities of Brighton Park, Little Village, Gage Park, and Back of the Yards. As an Illinois State Representative, she has been publicly recognized for her leadership and legislation on social services, education, law enforcement and job creation.

Susana Mendoza was elected as the youngest member of the 92nd General Assembly in 2001. She has served as Co-Chairperson of the Conference of Women Legislators and twice served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention (DNC). She was also a co-founder of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus.

In 2004, she was named one of Chicago Crain's Chicago Business Magazine "40 under 40" and in May of 2011, she was highlighted by Chicago Crain's Chicago Business Magazine in their "Women to Watch" series.

The U.S. Department of State has selected Rep. Susana Mendoza as part of its Professional Speaker's Program in an effort to have her promote democracy and leadership in the countries of Uganda, Tanzania, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela and Chile. As a legislator and/or the Chairman of the International Trade and Commerce Committee, Rep. Susana Mendoza has traveled to China, Turkey, Ireland, and El Salvador. Most recently, she was selected by Robin Read, the President & CEO of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, as one of only seven women nationally to travel to Iraq where she helped monitor the Iraqi elections on March 7, 2010.

She attended Northeast Missouri State University, (now Truman State University) on a soccer and academic scholarship, earning All-Midwest honors in soccer and a B.A. in Business Administration.