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| Chicago-Color-w-Delmarie-Cobb2-web   |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | 1/30/19  **At All Cost, I Want To Be In The Room Where It Happens**  The same black “influencers” who helped elect Bruce Rauner as governor of Illinois are working feverishly to get mayoral candidate Bill Daley elected.  Over the last week, I’ve received several telephone calls about Daley Meet & Greets in the black community. “Come meet Bill Daley and hear what his plans are for the black community.”  I don’t have to meet Daley to hear his great vision for the South and West sides of Chicago. He doesn’t have any. Like his brother before him, Richard M. Daley, and their anointed successor, Rahm Emanuel, the black community is an inextricable problem they wish would just go away. And they’re getting their wish. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | leaving chicago |   Black people are leaving Chicago and Illinois in droves. Meanwhile, the mayor’s office is touting Chicago as the nation’s corporate headquarters and the city council is poised to approve two $800 million TIF’s for two new communities—one along the Chicago River between Chinatown and the South Loop and Lincoln Yards. |  |  | | --- | | Both mega developments are cities within a city. The outgoing mayor wants taxpayers to subsidize these projects by way of infrastructure improvements in an effort to offset the black population loss and communities going to seed due to decades of disinvestment.  Bill Daley says, “No more excuses, and I have a plan to get gangs and guns off our streets, starting on Day One.” So, nearly 1,200 people were killed in Chicago over the last two years and Daley is sitting on a plan to protect the majority of victims who were young black men, and he kept it to himself. I guess that means if he doesn’t win, the plan will go right back in the desk drawer—no need to save black lives if he’s not mayor.  As usual, the coveted black vote is in play. Daley is making visits to familiar neighborhood haunts with the help of consultants who have no political loyalty or belief system. Like Emanuel, he’s also wrapping himself in the “I was President Obama’s chief of staff” blanket, all the while pandering to us by calling for the Dan Ryan Expressway to be renamed the Barack Obama Expressway.  All total, the Daley family, Richard M. and Richard J. have ruled Chicago for 43 years. If you’re black and think the Daley’s and Emanuel did such a good job that another downtown-centered, pro-business candidate deserves your vote, then I suggest you tour Englewood and Auburn Gresham, where half the households don’t have internet access. Meanwhile, shiny towering skyscrapers are being built beckoning transplants to come to Chicago to enjoy in the city’s many assets that seem like a fairytale to residents only a few miles away.  As a black person, I can only hope we aren’t that shortsighted, forgiving and confused as to vote for another Daley, because he served in the White House or he’s rich and powerful. That’s why some of us voted for Emanuel—the prospect that proximity to power would translate into prosperity for us. Emanuel and Rauner were rich and powerful and we see where that got the black community—on life support.  Chicago’s predominantly black neighborhoods are the only areas not taking part in the city’s prosperity. The recent crackdown on political corruption is a good omen that business as usual is dying a slow death. A new mayor and a sufficient number of new aldermen promises change is in the air.  The old Chicago Way of the rich and the politically connected getting richer and the poor get stuck paying the price, must end. We cannot afford to squander this once in a generation opportunity. Electing another Daley as mayor would be the death knell for our black communities and kill all prospect of them ever making a comeback. |  |  | | --- | |  | |