

Herman Brewer, Bureau Chief, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

Herman Brewer joined the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development initially as the Director of Capital Planning & Community Development departments in the Spring of 2011. In December of 2011, Herman was named Bureau Chief for Economic Development; taking charge of all departments within the newly formed area of County government. The departments include Capital Planning, Building & Zoning, Real Estate, Cook County Works and Community Development.

Before arriving at Cook County, Herman served as Executive Vice President of the *Chicago Urban League*, managing the daily operations and all program areas, including its Entrepreneurship Center, Workforce Development, Housing, Education, marketing and communications. In September of 2009 Brewer was asked to serve as Acting President and CEO during the organization's leadership transition process.

Prior to taking this leadership position at the Urban League, Brewer was a Program Director at the *John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation*. In addition to national grant making, Brewer served as Director of the Chicago Working Group for the Foundation, where he helped integrate grant making strategies in the Foundation's domestic Program on Human and Community Development in Chicago neighborhoods. This work focused around the areas of community development, prisoner reentry, public housing, and policy research.

Brewer served in several capacities with the *Local Initiatives Support Corporation, (LISC)*, from 1994 through 2002. As a Program Vice President with the national from 1998-2002, he had major responsibility for LISC programs in seven cities. In this role, Brewer worked closely with community development corporations, state and local governments, financial institutions, and foundations to secure project and operational support. As a senior officer of the organization, he reviewed decisions for project financing, underwriting and credit decisions for loan and grant activity in all 38 LISC program sites. Previously he served as Vice President for Investor Relations at the LISC affiliate *National Equity Fund* (1996-1998) headquarter here in Chicago. Brewer began his tenure with LISC as Senior Program Officer in LISC's Chicago Office in 1994.

Brewer earlier career was in the public sector as Director of Community Development for the *Village of Park Forest* (1991-1994) and prior to that as Senior Planner and then Assistant to the City Manager for the *City of Richmond, Virginia* (1984-1991).

He has served on numerous volunteer boards across Chicago and presently serves as a board member with St. Leonard's House Ministries on the near West Side. He is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology with a degree in City and Regional Planning and has done graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Illinois, Chicago. Herman and his family reside in Chicago's Hyde Park community.