

CU CITIZENS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

CIVIL RIGHTS-SOCIAL JUSTICE-GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ACTIVISM-CULTURAL EQUALITY

CU Citizens for Peace and Justice is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic organization working to educate the citizenry on local policy, thereby building coalitions to effect change. The importance of voter registration, and voter participation is at the core of its mission to politically empower residents by increasing civic engagement in the American electoral system. CU Citizens believe in equitable law enforcement, a Citizen's Police Review Board, and education not incarceration. Join organizers in their long-term campaign to educate the community about their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

CU Citizens for Peace and Justice founders, **Aaron and Carol Ammons**, are students of Rev. James Luther Bevel, the former Director of Direct Action to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. They have been married for three years, have three incredible children (Titianna 14, Jelani 9, and Amir 3) and can be reached at lifestratinst19@sbcglobal.net.

Aaron has lived in the community of Champaign/Urbana for almost twenty years, and attended Parkland College on a basketball scholarship. His experiences consist of working for two years as a youth counselor at Chanute Transition Center, over 71 hours of study in the fields of Psychology and Sociology, and nearly ten years of personal testimony. He is a human rights activist, a free-lance journalist and a published poet. His first book of poetry called "Journey Through Another Man's Mind" was published in December of 2004.

Carol has over ten years of experience working with families of children with disabilities. Her training expertise includes leadership development, conflict resolution, intervention strategies and team building. Carol has worked in the private sector for the past three years, counseling and mentoring children with behavior problems. She has also worked with the Regional Office of Education, and the former Chanute Transition Center, where she helped to transition juveniles from the Department of Corrections.

Organizers met in early 2004 when hundreds of community members came together to stop the Champaign Police Department from purchasing unnecessary, surprisingly lethal taser guns. In August, when Champaign Police charged Martel Miller and Patrick Thompson with eavesdropping for filming a documentary, CU Citizens for Peace and Justice decided large-scale direct action was long overdue. The result was Unity March '04. Thus, the Champaign-Urbana community can no longer ignore the effects of racism and the War on Drugs.

BE Peace! BE Just! BE Peace! BE Just!