



GREATER AUBURN-GRESHAM
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE IN CHICAGO THIS WEEKEND IS THE 79TH ST. RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Chicago, IL- September 5, 2018- If you're looking for some family friendly, safe, fun in the sun this weekend then come join Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) at their 13th Annual 79th Street Renaissance Festival on **September 8th and 9th, 2018**. Every weekend of the 79th St. Renaissance Festival for the past 13 years, there have been **ZERO acts of violence** on 79th Street in the Auburn Gresham community!

Last year, the festival expanded to a two-day event and gained over **23,000** attendees. The two-day festival will take place again this year, rain or shine, from 10 am to 7 pm on 79th Street (between Racine and Loomis) in Chicago's Auburn Gresham Neighborhood. GAGDC is proud to bring this annual event to life for the community, and as always it's an opportunity to change the narrative of perception about the south side of Chicago.

This is one of the largest and longest running, family friendly South Side festivals known for uniting all community members - various church groups, elected officials, businesses, senior centers, schools, not-for-profits, and block clubs. The festival features local talent and **world-renowned gospel artists** sponsored by St. Sabina Church and I-Heart Media on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening includes legendary Chicago groups Jesse White Tumblers and South Shore Drill Team and concludes with a house music set by legendary **Chicago House Music Master DJ Farley 'Jackmaster' Funk**.

Music will pump up the community again on Sunday, September 9th with the sounds from **DJ Boolumaster** and a live performance from the talented national recording artist **CeCe Peniston** singing her 90's hits "Finally", "Keep on Walking" and "We Got a Love Thang".

Some of the other artists who will perform on the main stage include, but are not limited to Nation of Islam Drill Team, Remendy, Elements of Sound Band and many others. From rhythm & blues to gospel, jazz, and neo soul music, the festival will highlight many of these genres throughout its run. **Over 100 vendors**, nonprofit organizations, and food trucks are participating. GAGDC carefully fosters a place for business owners, celebrities, public officials, and dignitaries to all come together and have a good time.

Public officials who have attended in the past include, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, US Senator Dick Durbin, State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins, 17th Ward Alderman David Moore, 21st Ward Alderman Howard Brookins, 6th Ward Alderman Roderick Sawyer, 18th Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, 6th District Police Commander Fred L. Waller, Secretary of State Jesse White, former governor Pat Quinn, and many others.

In addition to food and retail, other activities include the annual **Seniors Corner** where GAGDC provides **free meals to 400 senior citizens**. The organization also sponsors the Kid's Corner and supplies **1,000 children with snacks and giveaways**, as well as carnival rides, magicians, face painting, petting zoo, free dental check-ups, and other entertainment. The festival also offers a **Sports and Fitness** area for basketball tournaments and "Playstreets Chicago" for attendees looking to get active.

About 13th Annual 79th Street Renaissance Festival

The festival is designed to promote a spirit of empowerment, highlight local businesses, and bring awareness to services available through the City of Chicago. For more information or to learn more about GAGDC programs and services visit our website at www.gagdc.org.

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