

TESTIMONY OF ALDERMAN ISAAC CAROTHERS
ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AUSTIN
COALITION COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DOCKET NO.02-0706

ILLINOIS
COMPTROLLER'S COMMISSION
2003 AUG -6 A 11:11
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Q1. Please state your name and address.

A1. My name is Isaac Carothers. I live at 5833 W. Race, Chicago, Illinois, 60644.

Q2. Please state your occupation, your length of time in office and the boundaries of the area you represent.

A2. I am a Chicago Alderman representing the 29th Ward on Chicago's west Side. I am also the Ward Committeeman. I have been in office six years. The boundaries of my ward are: The south boundary of my ward is Roosevelt Rd. between Laramie and Austin; it extends from Roosevelt north on Austin Blvd. to North Ave., it goes over to Narragansett then north to Barry. It stretches from Narragansett over to Central Ave. on Barry. Central Ave. is the east boundary of my ward on the north end. In a small area of the south end, the east boundary goes over to LaVergne, but Laramie is the primary border on the southeast end.

Q3. What are your concerns about the closing of the Com Ed Customer Assistance office on the neighborhood and its constituents?

A3 First, all closings of vital services in the city of Chicago are a setback to neighborhood revitalization and efforts to improve the quality of life for our citizens. In the Austin area of my ward, development and renewal efforts are accelerating. One new school has been completed, another is almost completed. A new police station and a senior satellite service center are under construction. A new Aldi's and a new Family Dollar Store are thriving. The loss of the Com Ed Customer Assistance Center, like many other past business closings in the Austin area, contributes to a negative perception of the neighborhood.

Second, and most important, many people in my ward really needed the services provided by the Com Ed Service Center. My ward is primarily composed of working people and fixed-income people

getting assistance from the government. Many people live from paycheck to paycheck; others receive social security pensions or temporary family assistance. Many have to make hard budgeting choices between paying rent or their Mortgage or buying food or some other necessity or paying their utility bills. I call this "living on the edge." Many people in my ward live on the edge and pay their utility bills, for example, on the due date. A day or two day delay on posting their payment could cause them to be dropped from a payment plan, or to incur a late fee, or even to be disconnected. Seniors and many other of my constituents are used to coming in to see "Mary" at the bank to pay their bills. They are very uncomfortable with phone technology and therefore need the personalized service that the Com Ed Assistance Center so successfully provided.

Q4. Do you have any other concerns or recommendations?

A4 I am also concerned about currency exchanges and alternative payment centers that charge an additional fee. This is a particular hardship for seniors and other low-income residents.

Q5. Does this conclude your testimony?

A5. Yes.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

SOUTH AUSTIN COALITION COMMUNITY)
COUNCIL,)

vs.)

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY)
COKE COMPANY.)

NO. 02-0706

AFFIDAVIT OF Isaac Carothers

I have personal knowledge of the facts in the attached testimony. If I were called as a witness before the Hearing Examiner in this matter and I were asked the questions contained in that testimony, I would give the answers set out in my testimony.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies that he believes the same to be true.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac Carothers", is written over a horizontal line.

Signed and sworn before me
30th day of July, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Y Hayes", is written over a horizontal line.
Notary Public