



Honorable Sonya Harper, State Representative - 6th District and Joint Chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus

Sonya Marie Harper has been a community activist on the South Side since she was 16 years old. Her passions include promoting community, economic development and civic engagement in an effort to create more peaceful and prosperous neighborhoods.

Sonya runs a public relations and community organizing consulting firm, Sharper PR Communications. She is the Executive Director for Grow Greater Englewood and for nearly 3 years served as Director of Outreach at Growing Home, Inc. Prior to that she spent 10 years working in television news as a producer, writer and reporter for NBC, FOX and CBS affiliates throughout the Midwest. Sonya began her journalism career as a legislative reporter covering state capitol news and issues in Jefferson City, Missouri. Sonya returned home to Chicago, specifically West Englewood, to help non-profits and community organizations there with their communications and public relations needs. As a community organizer, she has also worked for local and national political and issue based campaigns.

An advocate for food access and education, Sonya co-founded the Wood Street Meet & Greet Community Garden and spearheaded the Grow Greater Englewood Coalition, a non-profit organization which advocates for and advances development projects, economic and educational opportunities related to food, urban agriculture and healthy living. Committed to youth leadership development and under the direction of Imagine Englewood If, she created Growing Citizen Leaders, a community organizing training program for teens in Greater Englewood.

Sonya is a member of the leadership team for the Resident Association of Greater Englewood, serves on the Appointed Local School Council at Lindblom Math & Science Academy, a co-founder of the Englewood Votes! Coalition, and leads efforts to organize the yearly neighborhood clean-up, Greater Englewood Unity Day.

Sonya Marie Harper resides in West Englewood, with her 5 year old daughter. She is a member of The Faith Community of Saint Sabina Catholic Church and proudly serves as the External Relations Manager for Trinity United Church of Christ.

Years served: October 2015 - Present; **Committee assignments:** Economic Opportunity & Equity (Chairperson); Appropriations-Public Safety; Agriculture & Conservation (Chairperson); Elem Sec Ed: School Curric Policies; Energy & Environment; Human Services; Environmental Justice Subcommittee (Sub-Chairperson); Public Benefits Subcommittee (Sub-Chairperson); Revenue & Finance;

Contact: Office Phone: 773-925-6580 / Fax: 773-925-6584 / <https://www.facebook.com/repsonyaharper>