

September 18, 2013

**Re: Chess in Chicago**

Dear Mayor Emanuel and CEO Bennett:

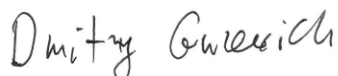
We read with interest the mayor's recent letter accepting Chicago's award as Chess City of the Year. We are writing to request a meeting with you to talk about how we might help you make that title come true by building a strong new chess program in Chicago's public schools.

All of us have walked difficult paths and overcome obstacles in working our way up in the chess world. All foreign born, we have dealt with discrimination and hardship and have learned many of life's difficult lessons. We have also come to know intimately the benefits that accrue to those who commit themselves to difficult tasks, maintain their focus and concentration, and learn to deal with adversity and loss.

We are committed to passing on some of those lessons to Chicago's schoolchildren, including those who are less fortunate and who could benefit the most from the great potential of chess. Most of us have already been involved in training Illinois' top young players by participating in the Warren Junior Scholars Program run by the Illinois Chess Association.

All of us have chosen to make your great city our home and take pride in living here. We admire your leadership in bringing reform to many areas of city life. The time is right to add chess to your list of accomplishments, and we stand ready to help.

Very truly,



Dmitry Gurevich  
Grandmaster



Yury Shulman  
Grandmaster



Mesgen Amanov  
Grandmaster



Alexander Goldin  
Grandmaster

### **Bios:**

**Dmitry Gurevich** was born in 1956 in Moscow. He emigrated to the U. S. in 1980 and earned the Grandmaster title three years later. In 1986, along with Norwegian Grandmaster Simen Agdestein, Dmitry won an International Chess tournament in Jerusalem. He made Chicago his home in 1988. He has tied or won the U.S. Open four times (in 1988, 1994, 2009, and 2012) and has excelled at the National Open, sharing first place in 1985, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997, and 2005. Dmitry is also a distinguished teacher, counting among his students Grandmaster Alex Fishbein, International Master Zhe Quan, and national scholastic champions Eric Rosen, Sam Schmakel and David Peng.

**Yury Shulman** was born in Minsk, Belarus, in 1975. He began studying chess at age 6. He achieved his Grandmaster title in 1995 and moved to the U. S. four years later to attend the University of Texas at Dallas, a three-time national championship chess team. Yury has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and an M.B.A. in Finance. His chess accomplishments include first place at the 2008 U.S. Chess Championship, tying for first at that event in 2010 and taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2006 and 2011. He tied for first in the 2001 and 2013 World Open and the 2006 U.S. Open Chess Championship. He also qualified four times for the FIDE World Cup (2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011). He is a Silver Medalist at the 2010 World Team Championship and a Bronze Medalist at the 2008 Chess Olympiad. Yury settled in the Chicago area in 2005.

**Mesgen Amanov** was born in Dashoguz, Turkmenistan in 1986. He began studying chess at the age of 5. He became a Grandmaster at 22, the youngest to achieve such a title in his country, and has been the highest-rated player in Turkmenistan for five years. He came to the U.S. in 2007 to continue his professional chess career. He has represented his home country in the 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 Olympiads and will do so again in 2014. He won the Illinois Open State Championship in 2009, 2011 and 2013, sharing first place in 2013. He is the winner of numerous international tournaments. He lives in Glenview where he runs a chess academy and teaches many of Illinois' top players. Among his students are World Under 8 Champion Awonder Liang, International Master-elect Adarsh Jayakumar, and National Master Alexander Velikanov.

**Alexander Goldin** was born in the USSR in 1964. He came to the U.S. in 1998 and made Chicago his permanent home earlier this year. He was the USSR Junior Champion in 1981, the USSR Young Masters Champion in 1988, and a joint winner of the Soviet Championship semifinal at Sevastopol in 1986. Goldin became a Grandmaster in 1989. He won the New York Open in 1991, the Philadelphia World Open in 1998 and 2001, and was the 2003 Continental Champion. In team chess, he played board three for the US team at the 2004 Chess Olympiad in Calvià. Among his students is Grandmaster Josh Friedel.

---

Replies may be addressed to Yury Shulman, [yushulman@yahoo.com](mailto:yushulman@yahoo.com), 312-375-7475 and Kiran Frey, [kiran47@hotmail.com](mailto:kiran47@hotmail.com), 847-382-5410.