

ENCLAVE Media Release



Enclave Academy at Braveheart | 1500 McConnor Parkway | Suite 320 | Schaumburg, Illinois 60173



Rev. David Black

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2026

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Enclave Academy Names the Rev. David Black “Citizen Thinker of the Year”

Honoring the thinking of a pastor struck by “pepper balls” fired by ICE agents during a peaceful protest.

Schaumburg, IL — Enclave Academy, a microlearning community specializing in nonclinical metacognition psychology for leaders of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, announced today that it will present, on February 18, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., its “**Citizen Thinker of the Year Award**” to the **Reverend David Black**, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, in recognition of his courageous public witness, moral leadership, and commitment to innovative thinking for civic engagement in a moment of national consequence.

Rev. Black came to international attention following his ill-fated participation in a peaceful protest opposing aggressive immigration enforcement actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During the protest, Rev. Black—wearing garments clearly identifiable as clergy and while engaged in prayer—was struck several times by chemical pellet “pepper balls” fired by ICE agents. Images and video footage of the shocking incident circulated widely, drawing coverage from national and international news outlets, and prompting intensified scrutiny of the treatment of peaceful demonstrators and faith leaders during civil protests.

First Presbyterian Church of Chicago holds a singular place in the city’s history as the first church of any denomination established in Chicago. Under Rev. Black’s leadership, the congregation continues a longstanding tradition of principled engagement at the intersection of faith, conscience, and public life.

Presenting the “Champion of Freedom Award” in January 2026, Chicago’s Mayor Brandon Johnson recognized Rev. Black for his heroism and moral courage, citing his willingness to place himself in harm’s way in defense of vulnerable immigrant communities and constitutional principles.

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add one:

February 9, 2026

Rev. David Black is Enclave Academy’s “Citizen Thinker of the Year”

Awardee Rev. Black is the Evening’s Keynote Presenter on February 18, 2026

Observers have noted that the encounter could easily have resulted in far more serious injury or death, underscoring the real risks borne by those who choose to stand publicly for justice. Rev. Black continues to model a form of “thinking leadership” grounded in faithful metacognitive reflection, restraint, and resolve.

He has spoken publicly about the ethical responsibilities of civic institutions, the role of religious leaders in democratic society, and the necessity of critical thinking when fear and force threaten to eclipse moral judgment. Such a laser focus on “thinking about thinking” is called, mitigation and remediation metacognition.

The Citizen Thinker of the Year Award, presented annually by Enclave Academy, honors exemplary individuals whose actions demonstrate disciplined thought, civic courage, and a commitment to the common good under conditions of pressure and uncertainty. Rev. Black, the awardee, will also be the evening’s keynote presenter.

“Particularly in the wake of the ICE killings and unrest in Minneapolis, Rev. Black exemplifies what it means to think—and act—as a citizen,” said John R. Dallas, Jr., CEO of Enclave Academy. “His witness reminds us that ‘serious thinking’ is not detached from risk, and that moral clarity often carries a personal cost,” Dallas said.

The award ceremony will take place during the 9th anniversary ThinkToThink™ monthly microclass No. 102 of Enclave Academy (founded in 2017), at 1500 McConnor Parkway, EA ThinkSuite™ 320, Schaumburg, IL, with guests from education, business, government, community organizations, and news media in attendance.

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About Enclave Academy at Braveheart

Since 2017, Enclave Academy (EA) at Braveheart is a pioneering not-for-profit microlearning community dedicated to the continual development of AI-fortified cognitive agility and decision-critical metacognition in entrepreneurs, business leaders, educators, and other difference-making thinker-doer leaders. Through its proprietary ThinkToThink™ Metacognition Ignition Model, EA integrates nonclinical cognitive psychology, psychological safety, reflective inquiry, and applied ideational innovation to support individuals and their organizations to *think things through thoroughly together* (TX5™) toward best-effort-thinking (BET).

Media Invitation

Members of the press are invited and encouraged to attend. Questions from the press will be welcomed.

Photo and interview opportunities will be available on-site. To arrange coverage or schedule interviews, please contact **John R. Dallas, Jr.** at **312.415.2222** or **johnrdallasjr@enclaveacademy.com**.



Mayor Johnson and Rev. Black

Wednesday **18 February** 2026 | 5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

Monthly ThinkToThink™ Microclass 102 | Decision-Critical Metacognition Psychology

Rev. **David Black** came to international attention following his ill-fated participation in a peaceful protest opposing aggressive immigration enforcement actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During the protest, Rev. Black—wearing garments clearly identifiable as clergy and while engaged in prayer—was struck several times by chemical pellet “pepper balls” fired by ICE agents. Images and video footage of the shocking incident circulated widely, drawing coverage from national and international news outlets, and prompting intensified scrutiny of the treatment of peaceful demonstrators and faith leaders during civil protests.

Meet and Hear Rev. **David Black**, Enclave Academy’s “**Citizen Thinker of the Year**”

In January 2026, Chicago Mayor **Brandon Johnson** presented to **Rev. Black** the “Champion of Freedom Award” at the mayor’s annual MLK Jr. Breakfast.

On 18 February, Enclave Academy will present to **David Black** the “Citizen Thinker of the Year Award” – and he will be the evening’s **Featured Thinker-Doer** presenter.



QR code to register.

Enclave Academy at Braveheart

1500 McConnor Parkway | EA ThinkSuite™ 320
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John R. Dallas, Jr.
Chief Enlightenment Officer (CEO)



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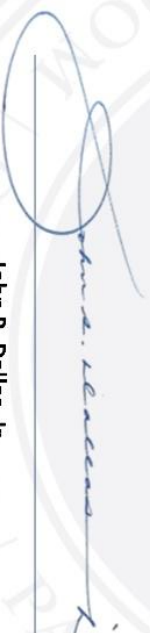
Enclave Academy | Decision-Critical Microlearning for Thinker-Doers

The Rev. David Black

Citizen Thinker of the Year

In grateful recognition of his exemplary intellectual generosity and civic leadership, as demonstrated through tireless and steadfast advocacy for justice, self-agency, and accountable governance, this award acknowledges the recipient's alignment with Enclave Academy's **Mission: Metacognition™** and EA's **ThinkToThink™** core competencies: (1) situational awareness of one's thinking, (2) strategic cognitive adaptability, and (3) continual self-cultivation through metacognitive reflection and allied disciplines.

Enclave Academy celebrates, with deep gratitude, the integrity, purposefulness, beneficence, and goodwill of **The Rev. David Black, Citizen Thinker of the Year 2026-2027.**



John R. Dallas, Jr.
Chief Enlightenment Officer (CEO)
Enclave Academy | Metacognition Psychology

Wednesday 18 February 2026

