

**Miami in uproar**

**HIGH-RANKING BLACK OFFICIAL FIRED**

Black Miami is up in arms over Thursday's firing of the city's first black city manager, Howard Gary.

Gary is challenging that dismissal, but he spent Sunday trying to cancel a rally of supporters set for noon today on the Dade County Courthouse steps.

Last Thursday, police had to contain an angry crowd of black supporters responding to radio rumors of the firing. After the commissioners voted to dismiss Gary, police rushed the mayor — who voted for the ouster — out of the meeting and provided a police escort home for one of the anti-Gary commissioners.



Howard Gary

Gary, 38, city manager for 3½ years, has been a powerful role model for Miami's blacks, who are bitter at their continuing poverty while immigrant Cubans have prospered since 1960.

Gary, who has a black belt in karate, was brought up by his mother in the black housing projects of Miami's Liberty City. As a teenager, he was denied a job as a city lifeguard because he was black, says former City Attorney George F. Knox, Jr., a longtime friend.

Gary went to Morehouse College in Atlanta, alma mater of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young. He earned a master's at the University of Michigan, was Newark, N.J.'s budget director and returned to Miami in 1977 as a budget officer. In 1981, the commissioners chose him as manager of the city.

"Gary is the typical American dream," says Knox, who describes Gary's managing style as "hands-on."

In a city torn by race

riots three times since 1980, Gary defused tensions and "convinced blacks they had someone they had access to," said Knox.

During the 1982 Over-town riots after the shooting of Nevelle Johnson, Jr. in a video arcade, Gary "spent all of his time in the streets" calming blacks, said Knox.

Gary made headlines in January when he called police chief Kenneth Harms at 2:47 a.m. to fire him. And some commissioners saw him as out of control, following his own

agenda rather than theirs.

Tensions grew especially heated between Gary and Cuban-born Commissioner Joe Carollo, who accused Gary of being "a dictator" and compared him to Idi Amin.

Finally, at a commission meeting Thursday, Mayor Maurice Ferre and Corollo — political enemies for a year — buried the hatchet and voted to fire Gary. The ouster will become effective in 30 days but Gary can request a public hearing to defend himself.

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**MORSE ARBERRY**  
DEMOCRAT  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 7  
**BIOGRAPHY**

- Member Prince Hall Masonic Lodge
- Resident of Las Vegas since 1956
- Graduate of Western High School, 1971
- Associate of Arts Degree, 1973
- Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona
- Employed by the City of Las Vegas since 1977  
Currently an engineer for the Building & Safety Dept.
- Resident of North Las Vegas since 1977
- Member, Second Baptist Church
- Member, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County
- Member, Greater Las Vegas Urban League
- NAACP Board Member, Chairman of Education Committee
- Trustee, City of Las Vegas Employees Association (CEA)
- Chairman, CEA Bylaws Committee and Grievance Committee
- Chairman of KCEP Radio Station

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