

# DISCRIMINATION

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Hammond is retired after 36 years of government service, having served in the United States Army for 20 years and achieving the rank of 1st sergeant at the youthful age of 24. He went on to complete another 16 years as a Federal Civilian Employee specializing in Automatic Data Processing in the computer field, attaining the rank of GM14 as a Government Manager.

Dr. Kennon, a school psychologist for the Clark County School District, alleges that the former President of the Homeowner's Association, Jay Cochran, who is their next door neighbor, threw a rock over their block wall while she was in the

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round school. It was through the efforts of the Westside Action Alliance Korps-Uplifting People (WAAK-UP), with the help of other community leaders and concerned parents, that rallied over the past few months and kept the pressure on the school district to make the necessary changes in the old desegregation plan.

Though happy with the outcome of the vote, WAAK-UP President, Marzette Lewis, remains cautious.

"I'm still in shock," she said after the board meeting. "I won't believe it until I see the kids walking or riding their bikes to school."

Deborah Jackson, Community Action Chairperson for WAAK-UP, summed up Lewis' feelings when she said, "I'm glad people got up to state their opinions on a matter as important as this. And we are happy with the progress that has been made. But we're going to stay on you (Clark County School District) to make sure we achieve the educational excellence that is needed."

backyard working in her flower bed. The rock was wrapped in a flyer that was questioning Cochran's blatant disregard for the Homeowners Association's bylaws.

According to Hammond, it was after he was elected Vice President, that the controversy started. He also stated that Cochran, as president, disregarded him totally as vice president of the association, and made several attempts to meet with other board members and conduct business without any

input or regard for him.

He cited that the main incident centered around an expenditure of \$10,000 of association dues that Cochran approved, and surveys that he authorized designating the planting of color (flowers, trees and shrubs) in the front yards of all of the 58 homes in Desert Fairways West, without contacting the homeowners.

The Sentinel-Voice has made several futile attempts to interview Mr. Cochran, who has refused to even speak to Ham-

mond and Dr. Kennon for several months.

According to Hammond, Cochran continuously circumvents the By-Laws governing the community and consequently Cochran resigned after being challenged by Hammond.

Hammond was then elected President and appointed a black retired resident as VP.

Lobbying efforts began by Jay Cochran and others which led to another election at which time Hammond was ousted.

Hammond believes that he

is a victim of racial bias and would like to see the new Board-of-Directors disbanded because the 2/3 quorum was not present when the election took place to remove him.

Attempts were made to interview Judge Valerie Vega, a resident of the community, and other Board Members without success.

The Black families interviewed by the Sentinel-Voice were split on the issue. One family said that they never had any problems with prejudice,

whereas another Black resident said that with Hammond's extensive background in Personnel Management, and his active participation in matters concerning the community, that his allegations should be investigated.

The Sentinel-Voice will continue its investigation to get the other side of the story. Some residents have elected to sell their homes and leave the area since the controversy began. Extensive lobbying efforts took place in order to remove Hammond.



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