

A SENTINEL-VOICE Exclusive Interview with Cassandra Williams, Candidate for Mayor

Part I

By Muhammad Abdullah

The following is part one of an exclusive interview with Cassandra Williams, Property Administrator of Carey Arms Apartments, and a recent candidate for mayor of the city of North Las Vegas. Ms. Williams is one of several contenders for the mayoral office and will be highlighting her reasons for aspiring for such a tremendous responsibility, especially in light of a recent resurgence in gang violence. This interview took place in Ms. Williams office at the Carey Arms Main Complex.

ABDULLAH: Ms. Williams would you tell our SENTINEL-VOICE readers a little about your background and what prompted you to seek the office of mayor of North Las Vegas?

MS. WILLIAMS: Well, first I would like to thank the SENTINEL-VOICE for this opportunity to address your readers. I have been in Public Relations and Property Management for about ten years and prior to that I worked with the Los Angeles Police Department as a Senior Dispatcher where I was in contact with people on a eight hour and seven-days-a-week basis.

Previous to that, as a native of Los Angeles, I grew up in South Central Los Angeles on 47th and Broadway, I went to Manual Arts High School and then I had the opportunity to attend USC and acquire a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration ... Because I don't have a political background, but I do have a "people" background, and after being in Las Vegas for nearly three years now, I felt that there were certain areas on the Westside and also on the upper North side of North Las Vegas that have been neglected. In fact, in coming here to the Carey Arms Apartments, I found out that there were a lot of things that have not been paid attention to, for whatever reasons. When I first came to Las Vegas, I had no interest in politics. But

now, I do have an interest in people, in all people,"being treated fairly, that's what made me realize that I must get involved...We, my family and I moved here and after observing the neglect I felt it was time for a change. For example, there tends to be an indirect red-lining" of individuals. There tends to be one area that gets paid attention to when it's time for election. My main campaign will be to hit the "grass roots" and let the people know that "if you want to get the attention that you deserve, you're going to have get out there and register to vote!" Whether they vote for me or not at this point really doesn't matter. The thing that I'm really interested in is getting the people on this side of town to get out and vote and stop accepting what

is being put down. I believe that these people have been pushed off in a corner somewhere and just totally neglected even in areas such as Decatur, Craig Road, all the new developments in those areas. Those people have problems too, that are not being taken care of also, but you never hear about that."

ABDULLAH: Ms. Williams tell our readers what are some of the specific issues that you would like to address should you become Mayor Cassandra Williams?

MS. WILLIAMS: Specifically, the major issues that I would address would be redevelopment, making sure that there were jobs pin-pointed for people in all of the areas of North Las Vegas. Definitely, redevelopment would be a major issue.



CASSANDRA WILLIAMS
When there is redevelopment and construction, there is jobs. But for some reason, we are not hearing about those jobs. Education is another area in our community that is being neglected, the busing situation for example, there are so many little things that break up families. No one is really paying attention. We're crying out, but no one is (See Interview, Page 9)

BLACK JOURNALISTS

(Continued from Page 1)

scholarships and internships to journalism students. Each year, more than \$100,000 is awarded by NABJ and its affiliate chapters.

The annual 3-day event is expected to attract as many as 350 journalists throughout the Western United States and other areas. The NABJ's Western Region consists of these states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington (Region X) and Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming (Region IX).

The Las Vegas Association of Black Journalists, which is the Nevada chapter affiliate of the national organization will be the host of this year's conference.

The conference theme: "The Griot & The Drum — A Proud Past, A Noble Future" is drawn from the significance of the role of the Griot (The African Tribe historian) and the Drum (the medium) as communicators in our ancestral African culture, and on their influence in our history in America.

African American journalists are the modern day "Griots" and beat the drum for accurate depictions of the African American and African cultures in the news media today. The "spirit" of our forefathers and keeping that spirit alive is the key to the fulfillment of our roles as the "Griots" of our communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, CONTACT: Diana Aird, Co-Chair (702)456-3838, Carla Alston, Fundraising Committee Chair, (702)792-8892, and Juana Hart, Co-Chair, (702) 792-8894.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

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owner Documents

Mortgage interest and, in most cases, home equity interest are deductible. Set aside statements, notes, and cancelled checks that document these interest payments. In addition, review your cancelled checks for such expenses as property and real estate taxes as well as points paid to obtain a mortgage on your primary residence.

Owners of rental properties should also set aside cancelled checks related to their operating costs, including advertising fees, house-cleaning expenses and repair costs. Failing to locate these important documents may cost you valuable tax deductions.

• Calculate Other Miscellaneous Expenses

Finally, review your checkbook and credit card statements for miscellaneous expenses, such as amounts paid for uniforms and tools required for your job, union dues, unreimbursed employee business expenses, as well as job-hunting expenses. Generally, your miscellaneous expenses are deductible to the extent that they exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income.

CPAs point out that by documenting deductible expenses such as these, you may discover that your tax liability is lower than you originally thought. For more information on preparing your tax return, contact the Nevada Society of CPAs, 826-6800, and request a copy of Lighten Your Tax Burden: A CPA's Tax Preparation Guide for Individuals.

MONEY MANAGEMENT is a weekly column on personal finance prepared and distributed by Certified Public Accountants. Contact: Nevada Society of CPAs, 5270 Neil Road, Suite 102, Reno, NV 89502.

TRAVEL WITH BATES

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The earliest recorded visitor to Sarasota was a Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez who arrived in 1528. Spain handed Florida over to Andrew Jackson in 1821, but the town of Sarasota was not founded until 1885.

A socialite from Chicago, Bertha Palmer was the first of the wealthy to recognize the area's possibilities. Bertha Palmer had the idea of making Sarasota the approved fashion center.

John Ringling; millionaire entrepreneur, art collector, and founder of Ringling Brothers Circus; determined the town's great distinction was to be culture. Seeing in Sarasota Bay a resemblance to Italy's Bay of Naples, Ringling fell in love with the place and decided to make it his winter home. Ringling bought thousands of acres of land, built graceful boulevards lined with copies of Baroque and Renaissance statues and started to build the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Due to the Florida real estate collapse, followed by the depression, Ringling never finished his Ritz-Carlton. The place to stay is the modern Colony Beach and Tennis Resort, set amid clusters of oleander, hibiscus, and sea grapes on Longboat Key. It is

quiet and discreet, elegant but casual, with emphasis on pampering. Its restaurant overlooks the Gulf, the waves lapping right under the windows.

Experience the local gourmet cuisine. The restaurants feature many tropical flavored fish entrees. Try baked oysters from murky Apalachicola River, crabs rolled in a delicious crust of crushed pistachios, pecans, walnuts, macadamia and pine nuts.

Many dishes have a Caribbean influence which is evident in the "island sauce" for grouper, a combination of peaches, melon, banana, brown sugar, cinnamon, and rum adds zest to the fish.

Many of the shops are open late and you can browse through the circles most attractive Mettlers, a small department store carrying designer clothing. Sarasota has an enticing array of antique stores.

Sarasota has admirably lived up to its reputation as a place where you can have your cake and eat it to. If you love the unspoiled outdoors, and some of the world's finest sea food this is the lure of a lifetime.

TRAVEL TIPS:

1. A calendar of local events can be obtained from Sarasota

Convention and Visitors Bureau, 655 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236, Telephone 813/957-18767.

2. Bring a swim suit, and casual clothes for temperate climate comfortable walking shoes.

3. Visit the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

4. The Woods Hole Oceano-

graphic Institute recently analyzed the sand and declared a Ninety-nine percent quartz, the whitest and finest in the United States.

5. Visit Gamble Plantation, the only surviving plantation house in South Florida.

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YOUR GRANDCHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN, NOT BLURRED.



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