

## A SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

# LOCAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

### PART II

By Muhammad Abdullah

The following is a "Sentinel-Voice" exclusive interview with Cassuandra Williams, Property Administrator of Carey Arms Apartments. Ms. Williams concludes our discussion with talking candidly about challenges that she faced when she first took over the management duties of the complex and how she overcame them and she offers some of the optimistic approaches that she intends to execute if she is victorious in her mayoral bid. If elected, she would be both the first female mayor in the that city's history, as well as the the first African-American to hold that office.

**MS. WILLIAMS:** Our management company spent over \$250,000.00 just last year alone in taking care of the plumbing here. We're refurbishing the roofs. The landscaping, the trees; I mean, just making it visible. Now that we are getting in funds we can do more things. We're going to be putting play-

ground equipment up.

Prior to the riots, we had a recreation room. We lost that after the fire. So now, with that room reconstructed, we will be able to have a place where the children can come and study and do homework. I stress academics, I'm just very strong on academics. I know some of the youth are more interested in a play area, swings, a basketball court, and things such as those, but my personal interest is on the academic level.

There has been so many improvements. For the first time in the history of Carey Arms, we had a talent show last year. We had over one hundred participants and over 1100 people, with no incidents! No stabbings, no shootings, no fights! From two o'clock until six o'clock we had this type of activity.

But of course, that didn't make the newspapers because that was too positive! We held that talent show in September 5th last year, it was on a Saturday. Incidentally, we have plans

to have another one in March because that was so successful.

In regards to your previous question, about approaching the Mayor or the City Councilmen about the problems that I see facing the citizens of North Las Vegas, just attend a regular City Council meeting and you'll notice that whenever there is a mention about the issues facing the residents of the Westside or the concerns of North Las Vegas, those issues seem to be pushed under-the-cover, and I got the impression, "Oh those people over there, let them continue to do whatever they are going to do.

We're going to pay attention to them now because there was a riot." But prior to that, there was very little mention about the concerns of the residents. Now, I'm not saying that we should start another riot, or we should go and beat down the Mayor's door or go to his home, make threats and call him "you-so-and-so-and-so."

I'm saying that we should

approach the problem intelligently and say to him that we should have neighborhood "affordable housing." There is just too much acreage over here for us to have three or more project areas and not have low-income residential "affordable housing," especially when there are millions of dollars available.

There are funds available for affordable housing especially when there are millions of dollars available. There are funds available for affordable housing. But do we have any available in North Las Vegas? No! There is no "affordable housing" over here. We have low income projects. We have Carey Arms

Apartments, we have Herbert Gerson down the street. But those needs have not been addressed. So I would propose that we start at the local level. Let's start locally with the residents, then the City Council, then with the Mayor's office, then let us sponsor legislation to initiate what we're saying. I think that the City Council should have responded to the needs of the residents before the riots. Even though I haven't been a resident here for a long time, I believe that some changes should have occurred before the riots. One does not have to have a Ph.D to see what is going on in the community. I believe that as an



Cassuandra Williams

African American woman, that I should do whatever I can to bring these issues forward. Even if I don't win, at least they will say that "She tried!" This lady wants to do something and Carey Arms  
(See Interview, Page 11)

## NORTH LAS VEGAS NHS TO SPONSOR A RESIDENTS' VISION SETTING MEETING TO REVITALIZE A NLV NEIGHBORHOODS

The North Las Vegas Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. will sponsor the first vision setting meeting for one of the targeted neighborhoods that the NHS has designated to receive rehabilitation support. This meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church at 2727 Civic Center Drive in North Las Vegas, and will be specifically for the purpose of giving the residents an opportunity to voice their concerns.

"The vision setting is done by the residents, for the residents and it will be their visions of what they would like their neighborhood to be. Individual and collective voices will be heard and a course of action will be set to begin the revitalizing process," said Rene' Merlau-Shreder, Executive Director of the NLV NHS.

A residents-based organization, North Las Vegas Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. is a partnership between local government, business, and residents and is dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods. "The support and enthusiasm is there, now we will proceed with the vision setting and develop workable solutions to help the neighborhood," said Merlau-Shreder. "Together, as a team, this partnership has the opportunity to make some major neighborhood improvements and with the direction of the residents, programs and projects will be structured that are best suited to their

area."

Low cost loan programs, structure rehab, and vacant property infill are just some of the areas that the NLV NHS will concentrate in. Other programs like the Homebuyers Club will be organized to encourage, and

### WESTSIDE STORY

(Continued from Page 3)

Because I would never be the one to attack another brotha, it is only right that they have their own opinion on matters. But I would hope, that they are speaking from complete ignorance of the topic. If not, we can safely say that this is just another in a long line of examples, of how blacks will completely "sell out." They transform into "uncle toms," if they can receive a few more scraps from the master's table, than the rest of our population!

Try if you can to follow their reasoning. Black conservatives state that because they believe in self help, economic empowerment, and abolishment of the welfare state, that we should side with republicans. If that isn't one of the most twisted and illogical viewpoints I have ever witnessed, I would like for someone to show me a more comatose stance!

Once again, I would say that these brothas aren't trying to sellout, but rather just misinformed. First of all, every generation of black leaders from Garvey to King has supported this stance. Secondly, we all know that the only true way to gain independence is through self development. But to side with the ideology that has done more to destroy the black race than any other since slavery, is in my opinion pure ignorance of the subject!

During Reaganomics, blacks achieved their highest unemployment since World War II. Black males were sent to prison at the highest rate of any country in the world including South Africa. The Reagan administration reduced the federal funding of the Civil Rights Commission. It understaffed the EEOC, and fired anyone who made any complaints about the way it had reduced the power of civil rights laws.

As we all know it attacked affirmative action programs, called for martial law in the streets of L.A., and invited Gates to the white house as one of the "best crime fighters" in these United States. Now I know that the liberal philosophy hasn't addressed all the concerns of our suffering masses, but if some blacks want to side with the party of David Duke, Bush, Nixon, Goldwater, McCarthy, and Reagan, Uncle Tom is alive and well!

Peace...

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