

LOCAL BLACK PANTHER PARTY HOLDS SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

By Muhammad Abdullah

On Saturday, July 10, 1993, the local chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP) held its first Annual Fundraiser at Frank Hawkins Sports Lounge to introduce itself to the West Las Vegas community and to raise funds to enable them to provide the community with tutorial services, GED training, day care and African-American History classes.

Ron Current, local President of the (BPP), summed up the original purpose of the party as one devoted historically to acquiring political power through educating Black people about the political process - registering them to vote and grooming political candidates - as well as combatting police brutality by any means necessary.

"I'd like to clear up a few misconceptions about the Black Panther Party. In the 1960's there was a need to get involved in the political process as there is today and as you know the police department was brutalizing blacks all over the country.

There were black nationalist movements that advocated white hate. The BPP, although it advocated the use of violence to protect yourself if you were brutally attacked by the police, never advocated white hate," he said. "The fact is that Bobby Seale and the late Huey P. Newton broke with black nationalist groups for that very reason. They found that there were BPP already in operation in New York and in San Francisco, so they formed the Black Panther Party of Defense, mainly in response to police brutality and injustices in the criminal justice system that were perpetrated upon black people, especially black youth."

"We don't bite our tongue when it comes to being treated fairly by the police department and we will strike back if violence is inflicted upon us. Las Vegas is about 25 years behind time and we are here to make our presence known," he said.

"The brothers who formed the party were not uneducated or unskilled brothers. Newton was a law student and Bobby Seale was an electronics expert and they set the tone for the types of leaders and members that began to form the party."

Sharing the dias with Ron Current was Tony Davis, Commander and Chief of Security of BPP, along with several guest speakers including Ray Willis, Clark County School District Public Relations

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EOB ELECTS 18TH LEADER

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County has elected Dora Harris as its new chairwoman.

Mrs. Harris leads the private, non-profit organization, becoming its 18th chair since the agency incorporated in 1964. She is employed by U.S. Bancorp as the Community Lending Officer, responsible for issuing home mortgage loans to low and moderate income persons.

EOB, whose 15 member board includes private, elected officials and representatives from the poor, operates annually with a budget of 15 million dollars, 350 employees, and 23 different programs and services. The agency is the largest non profit organization in Nevada.

Harris is very involved in community affairs, serving on the Nevada Business Services' Private Industry Council, the board of Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis and the Variety Day Home Council.

Asked about her plans for EOB, she explained, "I hope to continue to build upon the work already done in assisting the poor and providing them with a



DORA HARRIS

more holistic approach in seeking solutions to their individual problems."

Mr. Mike Waller was elected by the EOB Board as Vice Chairman during the June 30, 1993 meeting.

Mr. Waller is the Assistant Vice-President of Bank of America, Trust Division, and replaces Ms. Verlia Grice Davis as EOB Vice Chairperson. He is very involved in youth oriented programs, and is the secretary treasurer of the 100 Men Organization. Personally mentoring to 4 young men, Waller feels education is the way out of poverty.

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