

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 41

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

February 12, 1998

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



MYLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS

Chairwoman will not seek re-election

Special to Sentinel-Voice

BALTIMORE — The chairwoman of the NAACP board said Tuesday she will not run for re-election.

Instead, said Mylie Evers-Williams, she wants to establish an institute named for her husband, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, who was assassinated in the driveway of his Jackson, Miss., home in June 1963.

"Since my late husband Medgar's death, I have been committed to seeing that his legacy and proper place in history are maintained," she said. "It is time for me to once again devote my energies to that task."

Evers-Williams was elected chairwoman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in February 1995, at a time when the nation's oldest civil rights group was foundering.

The NAACP was mired in a \$4 million debt and its executive director, the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, had been fired for committing \$332,000 of NAACP money to quiet sexual harassment claims of a female employee. Morale inside the organization was low, while outside, people were questioning whether the NAACP was still relevant.

Evers-Williams said she believes she has completed her promise to restore the credibility of the NAACP.

"I believe my mission was to lead our organization out of the financial, moral and organizational morass in which we found ourselves," she said in a letter to the board. "The NAACP is now solvent, public confidence has been restored and our commitment to equality of opportunity for all Americans is unquestioned."

Evers-Williams will remain a member of the board of directors through February 1999. Her replacement will be voted in on Feb. 21 when the NAACP holds its annual meeting in New York. Kweisi Mfume, the NAACP's president and chief executive officer, said he expects a lot of lobbying for Evers-Williams' job between now and Feb. 21.

Coalition upset with PPA

Citizens say police union and sheriff handed out lax punishment

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Befuddled that a police officer kept his job after making a racial slur, a coalition of activists groups called local and state officials to contact the Police Protective Association and Sheriff Jerry Keller and express the dismay.

"We are here today to have Dan Holley removed from his position of vice president of the PPA," said Assemblyman Wendell Williams, D-Las Vegas, standing in front of Local 23 Police Protective Association, 1250 Burnham Ave.

"It doesn't make any sense for any candidate to seek the endorsement of the PPA until this matter is settled," Williams said.

Senator Joe Neal, D-North Las Vegas, is the only elected official backing the coalition. Some activists have blamed the silence by aspiring politicians and incumbents on the police union's

powerful voting bloc.

Gary Peck, director of Las Vegas' American Civil Liberties Union, the Rev. Jesse Scott, president of the Voters League, and the Rev. James Rogers, Las Vegas branch NAACP president joined Williams in denouncing the

police association's board for voting to retain Holley who made a racial slur last month in front of corrections academy cadets at the Clark County Detention Center. He referred to Martin Luther King as "Martin Luther Coon."

(See PPA, Page 10)



Local organizations represented by, left to right, Gary Peck, Las Vegas' American Civil Liberties Union, Wendell Williams, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, Linda Howard and Rev. James Rogers, NAACP, and Rev. Jesse Scott, Nevada Voters League, came together on Tuesday in front of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association to apply additional pressure in resolving the racial slur by an officer in the organization. Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Rose McKinney-James officially announced her quest for Lt. Governor on Monday at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Charleston campus.

Solar chief to run for Lt. gov.

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The head of a local solar corporation has tossed her name into the hat for the lieutenant governor's race.

Rose McKinney-James, president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Department of Energy-funded nonprofit Corporation for Solar Technology and Renewable Resources (CSTRR), is the first Democrat to announce that she plans to run for lieutenant governor.

The 45-year-old, promoted CEO of the

corporation in 1995, joins potential Republican candidates Jessie Winchester of northern Nevada, current Lt. Gov. Lonnie Hambergren and Clark County Commissioner Lorraine Hunt. The lieutenant governorship is a part-time position.

Before joining CSTRR, McKinney-James was a member of the state Public Service Commission, now the Public Utilities Commission, where she promoted use of solar energy as an alternative to coal and oil fuels.

City address highlights 'way of life' issues

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Urging dialog among citizens, developers and builders, Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones told a packed City Hall Chambers during Monday's State of the City address that all parties must work together to improve the city's "way of life."

"What type of community do we want to become?" Jones asked the more than 200 people jammed into the chambers.

Then she voiced her wish list: ban slot machines in new supermarkets and neighborhood stores, eliminate neighborhood casinos, install mandatory landscape buffers in commercial and residential properties, pave unfinished roads and remove billboards from neighborhoods.

Jones couched her comments on two of the hottest issues — infrastructure and managing growth. She suggested that developers might foot more of the cost for infrastructure — fire and police stations, parks, water and sewer connections.

To offset development costs and encourage building in the city's inner ring, Jones said she

(See Mayor, Page 20)