

Competing 'Million youth' marches set for Labor Day weekend

By Paul Shepard
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (AP) — Two "Million Youth" events, organized by diverse segments of the civil rights movement for the Labor Day weekend, could turn into a tug-of-war for America's minority youth.

The Million Youth Movement, backed by a coalition of civil rights advocates including the NAACP, the Nation of Islam and Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/Push Coalition, is scheduled Sept. 4-7 in Atlanta.

Meanwhile, the Million Youth March is set for Sept. 5 in Harlem. Its chief organizers



AL SHARPTON

include former Nation of Islam spokesman Khalid Abdul Muhammad and New York activist Al Sharpton.

The events' leaders have played down competition between the two gatherings for the most part, despite their similar names, goals and attempts to appeal to minority youth. The idea grew out of the 1995 Million Man March in Washington, organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to persuade black men to be responsible husbands, fathers and members of black society.

But some, like NAACP board chairman Julian Bond, who has endorsed the Atlanta gathering, see the timing of the events as troubling.

"It's problematic because

it appears to be headed towards a test of wills. Who will draw the biggest crowd?" Bond said. "It may not reflect who is really reaching the young people, but we will all be looking if 10,000 show up at one march and one million show up at the other."

The Atlanta group represents a more mainstream view of civil rights leadership, which more radical elements have branded as too moderate and out of touch with the realities facing young people.

Speakers at the New York march are more in line with radical black nationalist thought. The agenda includes demands for release of political



KHALID MUHAMMAD

prisoners, reparations for descendants of slaves and "unity and love among our youth and people."

Differing philosophies over how best to elevate the black community reflect an old split within America's black leadership.

At the turn of the century, Booker T. Washington advised blacks to stop demanding equal rights with whites, which brought him in conflict with another black leader, W.E.B. DuBois, an uncompromising spokesman for parity with whites.

And in the background of the 1960s civil rights struggle was an ideological fissure between black nationalists like Malcolm X and more

(See Marches, Page 20)

NY comptroller denounces Harlem youth march organizer

By Michael Blood
Special to Sentinel-Voice
NEW YORK (AP) — State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, the state's highest-ranking black elected official, said last week he could not support the proposed Million Youth March because of "heinous, hateful" statements by a lead organizer.

Meanwhile, a Harlem legislator urged the Giuliani administration to consider granting a permit for the marchers, warning of potential violence unless an agreement is worked out to hold the demonstration.

McCall, a Democrat seeking re-election this year, said the march could be an opportunity to inspire young leaders with a message of tolerance and unity. Instead, the involvement of Khalid

Abdul Muhammad, a controversial former aide to Nation of Islam minister Louis Farrakhan, overshadows the event, he said.

In 1994, Muhammad was dismissed as a spokesman for the Nation of Islam after giving a speech in which he made inflammatory remarks about Jews, gays, Roman Catholics and whites. McCall called his remarks "inexcusable."

"Although there are many positive aspects to such a march for our young people, I cannot support it going forward under the leadership" of Muhammad, McCall said in a statement.

Organizers at the Million Youth March — New York Black Power Committee did not return a phone call to their offices.

The city has not issued a permit for the march, scheduled for Sept. 5 in Harlem.

Organizers have vowed to defy any attempt to block the rally, fashioned after the Million Man March held in Washington, D.C. in 1995.

Organizers predict up to 3 million young people from as far away as Los Angeles will attend the rally to promote unity among young blacks, as well as endorse issues ranging from an end to gang violence to reparations for descendants of slaves.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has called the proposed demonstration a "hate march" because of Muhammad's statements. Asked about the march last Tuesday, Giuliani directed questions to city attorneys and the police department.

A spokeswoman for the law department, Lorna Bade Goodman, would only say that a permit had not been issued.

State Sen. David Paterson, D-Manhattan, held a news conference at City Hall with other community leaders to urge the mayor to resolve the dispute with organizers.

"We have a great fear there could be a confrontation," Paterson said. "We all want peace."

Paterson declined to discuss his own views on the march, saying his appeal for talks was driven by concern over public safety. But he added, "We need our mayor to recognize this group's constitutional rights and to work with them to provide a proper venue for them to march."

City officials fear the march could leave Harlem — if not Manhattan — in gridlock and

(See McCall, Page 20)

LAST CHANCE! ONLY 10 NEW HOMES AVAILABLE!*

FOR ONLY \$999 YOU CAN OWN YOUR NEW HOME AT REVERE ESTATES!
THAT INCLUDES EVERYTHING!

EXCEPTIONAL VALUES FROM \$98,540

Stop throwing your money away on rent!
Believe it or not, at Revere Estates you can own your very own home with lots of extra features:

- ❖ Spacious Homes
- ❖ Big Lots
- ❖ Concrete Tile Roofs
- ❖ Two-car Garages



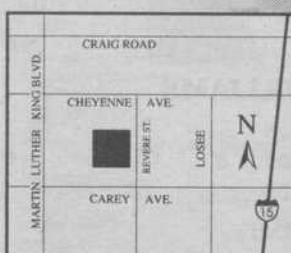
(702) 649-8146

Sales Office Open Daily
10 am - 5 pm

Revere Estates



*First Come Basis



Take Cheyenne or Craig to Martin Luther King, head south on MLK then left on Carey Avenue.

