

# Clinton: Blacks soul of her run

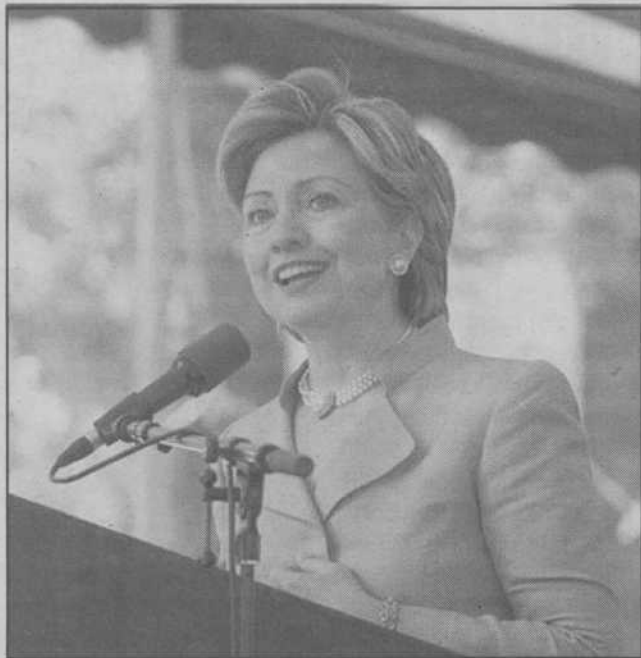
By Stephanie Frederic  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) - Democratic presidential frontrunner and New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton confirmed to the *Los Angeles Sentinel* in an exclusive interview this week that she has hired two high-powered and influential African-Americans to help run her historic race for the White House and she's assembling a team of African-American advisors across the country.

"I want to have as inclusive and diverse a campaign as I can because that's the way I want to govern," Sen. Clinton said while visiting Los Angeles last week. "We just want to do things right."

Clinton announced that Chicago-based banker and longtime friend Bob Nash, chairman of Shorebank Enterprises, will become her deputy campaign manager next month.

Previously, Nash had



Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., hasn't ceded the Black vote to fellow presidential aspirant Illinois Sen. Barack Obama

worked as the director of White House personnel for President Bill Clinton for six years.

Former CEO of the Democratic National Committee and former White House political advisor,

Minyon Moore, who worked as principal political advisor in the Bill Clinton White House, officially re-enters the Clinton camp.

"Minyon is a class act. She's brilliant and brings a lot to the campaign. She's

been helping me before I even thought about doing this," Sen. Clinton added.

Nash and Moore are two of about a dozen of African-Americans expected to be named to the Clinton inner circle.

"I feel very committed to working with and involving Black voters and Black citizens in whatever I do.

"That's the way I've lived my life, and that's the way my husband and I believe our country works best," said Clinton.

Nash said Hillary Clinton was his "strongest supporter" as it relates to helping the president have an administration that looks like America.

"It was an honor for me to serve, and that's why I'm leaving my job and everything to help her continue being for issues important to Black people."

"Senator Clinton has always championed issues that

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# Initiative ensures political inclusion

By Simeon Gant  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

SACRAMENTO (NNPA) - Senator Barack Obama's bid to become the first non-White U.S. President has inspired throngs of young people and potential voters from all ethnic backgrounds to become involved in government politics.

An early moniker of the Obama campaign was "Hope, Action, Change." Inspired by that charge, Bay Area activists have formed an organization called "Vote Hope."

The organization is a political action committee created to assist candidates at the federal level. In this case, they are raising money ultimately to assist the Barack Obama for President campaign. Vote Hope co-founder Ben Jealous says they are organized to benefit more than Obama. "We are trying to capture this moment of surging political action," said Jealous.

The organization also filed for an additional political fundraising status with the IRS allowing organizers to assist local and statewide candidates in the future.

The idea is to take advantage of the momentum created by the presidential election and build on it to focus on developing local candidates of color long after the 2008 election. The immediate goal, however, is to raise \$3 million and transform 500,000 supporters into hard votes for Sen. Obama in California's February 8 primary election.

"We are conducting an independent grassroots effort throughout California to increase voter turnout," said Jennifer Fernandez Ancona, the communications director for Vote Hope. "We are reaching out to young people, people of color, the online community, young professionals and nontraditional voters at peer-to-peer meetings and happy hours — bringing the message to them rather than them coming to us."

Vote Hope chairman, Steve Phillips, has a team of at least 10 activists who collectively are committed to improving society on the issues of poverty, race, education and immigration rights.

Phillips has worked in San Francisco politics for more than 20 years in various capacities as an elected official, attorney and education reformer.

In May, Vote Hope organized a group of 40 Black pastors from throughout Northern California to address issues important to thousands of churchgoers. The discussion varied from the viability of ending poverty to the popular effort of providing healthcare to everyone.

Vote Hope is currently organizing a similar event with church leaders in Southern California, as well.

Recognizing the changing demographics of California, Vote Hope dispels the notion of any region being dominated by any one ethnicity.

Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Mervyn Dymally (D-Los Angeles) says there are no more so-called "Black seats." He frequently tells hopefuls that candidates must campaign on issues other than race.

"Others should have opportunities to compete in politics," Jealous said, referring to Vote Hope's effort to develop nontraditional elected officials. "More competition should create better leadership," he concluded.

Simeon Gant writes for the Sacramento Observer.

# High murder rate has Philly on edge

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Police report a number of arrests in attempts to bring to a halt the trend of murder cases in the "City of Brotherly Love," Philadelphia. The escalating murders, now topping 213 ongoing homicide investigations, have city residents and officials alarmed.

The city is experiencing one of the highest murder rates of any U.S. city at the rate of about one per day, according to reports. Many of the murder victims and alleged perpetrators are youths in the same neighborhood. Many victims are stabbed or

killed by other means, but a notably high number of cases involve the use of a firearm.

Some city officials are pointing at the prevalence of guns and what one elected official says is the inability of the state's non-rural residents, under current law, to pass effective laws to control gun possession.

Much of the state is agricultural and rural residents tend to vote against pro-gun-control laws, but the high murder rate is plaguing primarily the inner-city and suburban areas, according to officials. The state laws pre-

empt, or prohibit by prominence, cities and municipalities from enacting more stringent laws and ordinances regulating sales and possession of firearms.

In a recent report on ABC's "World News Sunday," one of "frustrated city officials," City Councilman Darrell Clarke, announced that a group of citizens and legislators will "sue their own state government."

Clarke said in a statement, "I can no longer continue to sit here and allow the level of violence to continue unabated simply because

people don't feel it is appropriate to do what I believe is their mandatory duty."

Some officials dispute that the status of the state's laws are a cause of the high murder rates and deny that local gun-control laws would have any effect on reducing the murder rates.

Republican State Representative Steve Cappelli, a gun permit holder and hunter, acknowledges a problem in the Philadelphia, but says the problem is not the laws. "They [Philadelphia residents] are experiencing cultural genocide, to be blunt."

Cappelli added, "And any measure we give Philadelphia, any new regulation, any new authority to regulate firearms, will not impact the very element that's terrorizing that city."

# Mandela

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raise the \$18 million in funding over three years for the group.

Along with Mandela, Carter and Tutu, the Elders are former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Ela Bhatt, an Indian women's rights campaigner; former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland; Li Zhaoxing, a former Chinese envoy to the U.N. who worked in Africa; Mandela's wife, Graca Machel, a longtime campaigner for children's rights; former Irish President Mary Robinson; and Bangladeshi micro-credit pioneer Muhammad Yunus.

A chair stood empty on the stage for Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was invited to join the Elders but is held under house arrest by the country's military junta. The Elders "will support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair," Mandela said.

Mandela, who walked with difficulty and

was not expected to take an active role in the new group, joked about his attempts to stay in retirement.

Mandela and Machel often held hands during the event, especially when Tutu reminded the crowd that the day also marked the couple's ninth wedding anniversary.

At one point during the emotional gathering, Gabriel sang his "Biko" unaccompanied, leaving Tutu weeping. Black leader Steve Biko died at the hands of the apartheid security forces 30 years ago.

The Elders will decide their priorities in the next few months.

"My prayer is that the great potential of the Elders might be realized through sound judgment and through dedication and courage," Carter said.

The Elders event was part of a weeklong birthday celebration for Mandela, born Rolihlahla Mandela July 18, 1918, in Qunu village near Umtata in the Transkei on the southeast coast of Southern Africa.



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