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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Black men eye reduced crime

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Thousands of Black men turned out this week to support a volunteer effort aimed at reducing violence in this crime-plagued city, lining up for several blocks to register.

Volunteers who join street patrols as part of the "Call to Action: 10,000 Men, It's a New Day" campaign will not carry weapons or make arrests but will instead be trained in conflict resolution, organizers said.

"Nobody else is going to magically come into this community and get it done," said real estate developer Abdur-Rahim Islam, a lead organizer.

Mayor John F. Street, music producer Kenny Gamble and other Black community activists joined Police Chief Sylvester Johnson at Temple University for the kickoff rally.

Acknowledging that police alone can't quell a run of violence, Johnson called for 10,000 volunteers last month to help make the streets safer.

Philadelphia endures a reputation as one of America's deadliest cities, with about a slaying a day and many more nonfatal shootings.

The nation's sixth-largest city has nearly 1.5 million residents, 44 percent of them Black. It has notched more than 320 homicides this year. More than 80 percent of the slayings involve handguns, and most involve young Black males.

Organizers had originally talked of deploying volunteers to patrol the streets, but they suggested at the rally on Sunday that some would help out established community groups, such as youth organizations.

The exact number of volunteers who signed up was not immediately known.

Johnson said he believes enlisting volunteers to help address violence was better than hiring more police to lock people up.

"These [volunteers] can prevent people from being
(See Rally, Page 3)

Ward 5 gets own chamber

By Frank A. Albano
Sentinel-Voice

There is a new, one-of-a-kind, neighborhood-specific Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas.

Katherine Duncan, who ran unsuccessfully for the Las Vegas City Council seat for Ward 5, has turned her experience as a business woman and community activist into a vision that she hopes will generate a renewed interest in tourism and development in her ward.

In an exclusive interview with the *Sentinel-Voice*, when asked why she established a chamber of commerce for a small section of the city, Duncan said, "I feel Ward 5 is lagging behind in tourism and development."

Still in the organizing stages, waiting for state articles of incorporation and a federal nonprofit designation, she said she approaches the challenges of addressing "high unemployment, high crime and the business needs of the community in Ward 5."

Duncan says the organizing committee consists of 40 members; she serves as the CEO.

She considers a chamber of commerce to be a "liaison" between the ward's "citizens and government," along with



Sentinel-Voice photo by Dianna Saffold-Cooks

Katherine Duncan, right, recently established a chamber of commerce to serve the city of Las Vegas' Ward 5 area.

promoting "new business growth" combined with "existing businesses." In addition, the chamber seeks to "identify and remove the obstacles new businesses" face locating in Ward 5.

Duncan says that the new chamber can coexist with the Urban Chamber of Commerce, which has been long established as an advocate for Black-owned businesses in Las Vegas.

Duncan says that both entities "complement each other."

"The Urban Chamber of Commerce's mission is African-American businesses

and diversity programs, where we are different," said Duncan, "in that we promote a specific area."

There are many other existing chambers of commerce in the Southern Nevada area. Overall, the City of Las Vegas works closely with those chambers and a variety of other government agencies and business organizations to cultivate new commerce, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Nevada Development Authority. Among the existing chambers are: Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Chamber of

Commerce, North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Latin Chamber of Commerce, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Indian Chamber of Commerce, and the Urban Chamber of Commerce.

The current name of the Urban Chamber came into use in 1997. Initially, there was the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce established in 1980, which was disbanded after organizational difficulties.

In recent years, the present Urban Chamber, also located in Ward 5, has endured internal strife resulting in the recent establishment of a new board and officers. Incoming President Cornelius Eason spoke favorably about Duncan's Ward 5 chamber.

"Absolutely," stated Eason, "We complement each other. They are a geographic organization, while we are a broader entity. We want to avoid duplication, and we hope they are successful."

Eason also commented about changing the Urban Chamber's image: "We will enhance our image and promote the [Urban] Chamber as a business entity and not focus on the past, but build on the past — whether for profit
(See Chamber, Page 2)

Theologian, clergy: White pastors still ignore racism

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Harvard University divinity professor, Rev. Harvey G. Cox Jr., recalls marching for civil rights with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and even being arrested for the cause.

"There were an enormous number of White pastoral participants. There were nuns. There were priests. There were rabbis. There were a lot of people involved at that time," recalls Cox, among the nation's preeminent theologians.

But, more than 40 years

later, amidst daily reports of racial violence, threatening nooses, torture, and other hate crimes across the U.S., Cox now marvels at the near deafening silence of his fellow White clergy. "I have noticed, especially since I've been watching the Jena incident, how that is not happening now," he said of the once thriving White participation in the movement for racial justice.

"For one reason or another, maybe their plate is so full and they've got these other things they're concerned about, maybe they

don't think of this as very central."

Among the early members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Cox is one among clerical observers and race-hate experts interviewed by the NNPA News Service who agree that White pastors are failing to speak on racism.

Rev. Joseph Lowery, who co-founded the SCLC with King, remembers Cox's activism and generally agrees with his observations about today's White clergy.

"White preachers have
(See Clergy, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Dianna Saffold-Cooks

SENIOR MOMENT

Las Vegas City Councilman Ricki Barlow, left, and Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly talk about the future expansion of Doolittle Senior Center on Wednesday night. Richardson Construction is the contractor on the two-phase project.