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President Visits Sims Center

On November 16, 1993 Dr. Benjamin S. Chavis, the celebrated Civil Rights Leader and former member of the Wilmington 10, and National President of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People, graced the floors of the William C. Sims Recreation Center at 1201 Alder Street in the heart of Happy Hill Garden Community.

He stressed to the children and public that he was pleased with the good works of Ben Piggott and his staff (Clarence Brown and Belinda Hardy) with their quality programs with children and adults. Dr. Chavis was also pleased about the Happy Hill Garden Store Mart, a community run operation.

He applauded both programs because these are grassroot efforts of the people who are looking out for the needs of the community.

The children were pleased to see Ben Chavis, who was accompanied by Winston-Salem Local NAACP president William Tatum and Winston-Salem Housing

Authority Clifton Graves.

During his visit the children learned that Dr. Chavis and Michael Jordan were both from Wilmington, NC.

The Williams C. Sims Center doors are always open to anyone who wishes to visit. The children have extended an invitation to Basketball legend Michael Jordan to visit the Center.

During his one and a half hour visit Chavis tossed a football with Travis Williams, and shook hands with several of the children. He was presented with a Happy Hill Garden "Volunteer Staff" t-shirt.

The use of "Pepper Spray" took some of the fun out of the day, as Dr. Chavis condemned the use of it. He had this to say, "The use of toxic tear gas by police departments across the country has gotten to the point where there are too many deaths".

Ben Piggott, Supervisor of the William C. Sims Recreation Center, stated that this visit by Dr. Chavis was a great mark in history for the Center.

Familiar faces from other communities in the Winston-Salem area took



time out of their busy schedule to spend the day at Sims Center; former Alderman Larry Little, Alderman Larry Womble, W-S Urban League CEO Deloris Smith, Rev. J. Ray Butler, Brother Minister Wray Muhammad, local Winston-Salem Study Group of the Nation of Islam, Brother Minister Willie Muhammad, Greensboro Study Group of the Nation of Islam, Happy Hill Garden Council Resident, Sarah Webster, and Housing Director Karl Menetee.

AC Phoenix

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