

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBIDDEN

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Words Of Wisdom

None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing. — Benjamin Franklin

The more we study, the more we discover our ignorance. — Shelley

God, keep me still unsatisfied. — Louise Undermeyer

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Plan For NCR-54 Redevelopment Includes All Relocatees

By Donald Alderman

The Hayti Development Corporation (HDC) has submitted a plan for the development of the old Hayti community to a sub-committee of the city council. The plan is similar to one the city administration had prepared for council approval. But, for the most part, the plans are markedly different.

City planners say their plan is only an example of how the land — much of it vacant because most businesses were forced to relocate, families were uprooted, houses torn down and the expressway built — may be developed. They add that any group can present a development proposal.

However, the city's plan originally was set for council approval, including public hearings, by December 21.

A public hearing on the city's plan is now set for January 11. The administration's timetable for council approval was set back after Finance Committee members thought the public was not allowed enough time to study the plan.

City planners' concept also calls for the Durham Business and Professional Chain to offer technical assistance to eight businesses in the 'Tin City' area, aiding in their permanent relocation. The HDC also has its differences with the terms of that proposed contract.

According to HDC president, Nathaniel White, Jr., HDC's plan is formulated to accomplish three basic objectives:

(1) Primary consideration is given to the eight existing businesses of the Hayti community. HDC says the eight businesses have been removed but never renewed. Their relocation and renewal into anywhere they want in the whole 54-acre tract is primary.

(2) Consideration to any businesses removed from Hayti that want to return. That is essential, White said, because they were forced to move against their will.

(3) Consideration to any minority firm, from outside or within the city, that wants to locate in Hayti should also be given top consideration.

White said the city's plan mainly concerns the area's development without much emphasis on the area's historical significance. He said, however, that HDC and the city are working together to formulate a plan acceptable to the council.

Paul Norby, the city's planning department director, said the administration mainly wants a plan that will be acceptable to potential developers.

While both the city and HDC have talked to developers about the feasibility of their development concepts, they reportedly have no idea who will develop the valuable land.

City planners contend that, to lure developers, the fact that the land is urban renewal property must be minimized, and most development is proposed east of Old Fayetteville Street because the large project area may frighten potential developers.

This means, HDC says, the fact that the area is largely a black community; the fact that black businesses were all but destroyed; and the fact, despite fears, the land is very valuable with easy access to the east-west expressway, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina Central University, downtown and Duke University, is being whitewashed.

The HDC says the area's development must bridge the old spirit of Hayti with new luster of higher quality; must remember the area is valuable urban renewal land; must remember that promises of rebuilding Hayti's black business district were never fulfilled; and, must never be so narrowly focused as to think that because the area has project housing it cannot be redeveloped so as to resemble — with better quality — its past.

HDC's sentiments do not reflect a desire for the city to financially rebuild black businesses. It does mean, however, the city should set the tone for reconstruction of black commercialism in the area with the same fervor as it did for destruction of the area.

The most notable difference between the two plans is development east of Old Fayetteville Street. The city's plan lays out nothing concrete. It mentions "continued development of community oriented commercial services." HDC's plan envisions a park, skating rink, real estate firm, a bank, small business development, and, a larger medical plaza.

HDC's plan views Hayti as an extension of downtown. The city's plan, in terms of development concept, is seemingly an extension of the Forest Hills community.

There are commercial enterprises already east of Fayetteville Street. Some have been bothered with crime and some have not. The same is true throughout the city.

In a letter to the editor, printed in *The Carolina Times* December 19, Norby said after the city's plan was determined to be feasible, the eight existing businesses — now in Tin City — were contacted. *The Carolina Times*, one of the eight businesses, was never contacted. Furthermore, HDC members agreed it would have been more meaningful for the businesses to be contacted before the plan was developed.

HDC says another misgiving in the city's plan is the wording of the proposed contract with the Chain. The Chain is being asked to determine if the businesses are viable, thereby deciding if they can be relocated.

This, HDC contends, is shortsighted. The Chain should aid in making sure the businesses are relocated and not simply determining whether they can be relocated.

HDC says its criticisms of the city's plans are not meant to halt progress, but to ensure that the Hayti community — ignored for two decades — is not disserved.

Former NCCU Law Dean Dies

ATTORNEY

LeMARQUIS DeJARMON, former dean of the North Carolina Central University Law School, died suddenly at his home on Masondale Avenue, Wednesday morning, of a heart attack. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elva P. DeJarmon and one daughter, Miss Michelle DeJarmon of Durham.



May the joys of the season dwell in each and every heart.



Fantasy In Storybook Land

William Beverly, 3, played the role of Santa Claus and Yolanda Carrington, 3, played an elf as the children of Russell Memorial Child Development Center presented their Christmas play last Tuesday.

Photo by Jim Elliott

McNeil: Still 'Waiting For Justice'

By Donald Alderman

Although the wheels of justice often turn slowly, Leroy McNeill says in his case they are turning "unnecessarily" slow.

"It's been nearly two months and there has been no action yet," McNeill said Wednesday. "I don't understand it. I don't know what is happening. No one has even contacted me," he said.

McNeill said he regularly visits his doctor and has to take medication daily to control seizures he suffers because of a flashlight blow to his head.

ABC Officer Ronald Allen struck McNeill on the head on November 7 while conducting a raid at his home in the Walltown section of Durham, McNeill alleges.

"I didn't provoke the man. He just hit me," McNeill said, when told that many question whether Allen struck him without reason.

Doctors at Duke Medical Center said

McNeill suffered a brain contusion, fractured skull and loss of hearing in his left ear. He was hospitalized for three days before being released.

Immediately after the incident, Public Safety detectives were called in to investigate brutality charges and the local NAACP chapter was asked to fight on McNeill's behalf.

Besides that, there has been little action on the part of local law officials.

"It is not fair," McNeill said somberly. "I'm still waiting for justice. I will continue to fight regardless of how long it takes."

McNeill was twice denied warrants against Allen. However, Allen has obtained two warrants against McNeill — one for interfering with an officer and another for assault. Detectives advised Allen against obtaining warrants.

After receiving the detectives' report of investigation of the incident, Durham County District Attorney Dan K. Edwards, Jr., said he would decide a course of action within a week.

Three weeks have passed and there has been no action on the report that Edwards said was thorough. Edwards said there is evidence Allen struck McNeill. He said he will decide whether the force was excessive.

Edwards, it was learned, will not act until McNeill has his day in court for allegedly assaulting Allen.

George Frazier, local NAACP president, said that inaction is unnecessary and unacceptable. Saying Allen's assault charges have nothing to do with the alleged brutality McNeill suffered, Frazier called the inaction a "whitewash."

"It is a miscarriage of justice when law enforcement agencies do not take brutality charges against their officers seriously," Frazier said. "There has been ample time for Edwards to make a decision. It looks like a cover-up."

"We'll ask the Justice Department to determine whether McNeill's constitutional rights have been violated."

"They are prolonging this thing to try to tire us out. We have many options left and we will not give up," Frazier said when asked why there has been no motion in the case.

Frazier called for the firing of ABC Chief of Police Roland Leary last week, saying Leary, Allen's boss, acted indifferently to the alleged misconduct of Allen. Frazier called for the suspension of Allen pending an independent investigation of the felonious assault charges. Leary, however, ignored the calls.

Frazier stopped short of calling for Edwards' resignation. He said Edwards' inaction will probably be reflected in the polls should he decide to run for re-election next year.

Leary has announced his candidacy for Durham County Sheriff next year.

Duke Power Cuts Night Bus Service

By Donald Alderman

Duke Power Company's bid to discontinue night transit service beginning at 7 p.m., January 15, was approved on a 7-6 vote by the City Council on Monday night following a long, often emotional session.

Several opposition groups say the decrease in service will be protested. Doug Lowe of the Transportation Alternatives Network said a strategy is being worked out. Sam Reed, president, Durham Chapter, National Council of Senior Citizens, said the local group will join the effort. The People's Alliance and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People are also expected to participate. The groups expressed dismay with Mayor Charles Markham, whose vote proved decisive in eliminating the service.

Councilmen voting to end night service were Barney West, Kim Griffin, Harwood Smith, Paul Vick Carroll Pledger, Ms. Jane Davis, along with Mayor Markham.

Councilmen voting not to end the service were Chester Jenkins, Ralph Hunt, Maceo Sloan, Thomas Hudson, Jr., Thomas Campbell and Mrs. Sylvia Kerkhoff.

According to Councilman Ralph Hunt, the action was not "honest or fair to the citizenry" of Durham. He and others who spoke in opposition to the service reduction noted that the

company operates the bus system under a franchise agreement which also gives Duke Power electric service rights and said the company has an obligation to the council and to citizens.

That obligation to provide both electric and transportation services to the city was weakened despite desperate cries from community members who said the night bus service elimination will cause night workers to lose jobs and put undue hardships on the transit-dependent population.

Duke Power officials were present but did not speak.

Duke Power says night bus service elimination will reduce its losses on the transit system due to low ridership.

Instead of cutting services, the company should do more to promote services, said the Rev. Z.D. Harris, pastor of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, echoing the sentiments of several present. About twenty church members accompanied Rev. Harris at the meeting.

Duke Power can reduce the number of buses from four to three on Watts Hospital-East Durham and Duke Hospital-Wellons Village routes beginning February 1, another action the council took concerning the transit system.

The service reduction on heavily used routes, was approved 11-2 as a ninety-day test period during which the council

will receive reports from city and company officials in thirty-day intervals.

Although the routes are not hampered by low ridership, Duke Power contends its losses can be reduced by crowding three buses and dropping one driver on each route.

The test is being used as an excuse to reduce services, said Reed, speaking on behalf of the Durham Chapter of the National Council of

Senior Citizens.

Test the impact of reduced services for ninety days and the ridership is gone, said Lowe, adding, "Let's not kid ourselves."

In other business the council:

- Deferred action on a resolution approving the participation of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency in the financing of a 75-unit apartment complex to be constructed on

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Annual Party

NEW YORK—Mayor Ed Koch and Cardinal Cooke entertain children at the Cardinal's annual Christmas party for children of the New York Foundling Hospital and others at the Waldorf.

UPI/Photo