

Clergy ban together to support Larry Little

▲ Religious leaders are planning to hold a number of forums to endorse candidates

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff writer

A small group of pastors, evangelists, and religion professors gathered together Tuesday afternoon at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue to express their individual support of 12th Congressional District candidate, Larry Little.

Rev. Carlton A. G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church said the group came together as individuals so as not to defy any church-state relationship laws which prohibit the church from endorsing political candidates.

The group discussed support of Little and suggested that open political forums be held in the

upcoming year for all candidates. Some attending complained that too often candidates are heard but never seen. "We want to put the names with the faces."

The following is taken from a release put out by the group regarding Little:

"The recent House banking scandal . . . the whole pillage of the savings and loan industry, the exclusive use of military force as a foreign policy, the crisis in our schools and our streets with drugs and crime; the lack of decent and affordable federally-funded housing and health care, all cry out for moral and spiritual leadership in the U.S. Congress. We believe Larry D. Little fills the bill.

With a single parent background in the Kimberly Park com-

munity, to the Black Panther Party and Winston-Salem State University, from the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen to University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wake Forest Law School and now professional life; Larry's Faith journey has grown from one state of grace to another. Most importantly, from our perspective is the cry of Amos, "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a might stream."

Little's fighting for Joann Little, the Wilmington 10, the Charlotte Three, Darryl Hunt, and now the Winston-Salem Four; let's us know he's on the side of justice. Raised in New Bethel Baptist Church and currently a member of Dellabrook Presbyterian, we know Larry has the spiritual sus-

tenance to go along with the educational excellence and political sophistication necessary for the House of Representatives. It's our honor to hold up his name in this effort."

Attending the meeting were: Dr. H. L. Moore, Rev. Ira McCullough, Rev. R. L. Hinton, Rev. G.W. Roland, Rev. Jimmy Bonham, Rev. S.L. Hodges, Rev. Reuben Gilliam, Rev. Dr. Sid Kelly, Dr. B.H. Bonham, Minister Assim Razzak, Rev. Dr. Serenus T. Churn, Sr., Rev. William S. Falls, Evangelist Mamie Rennick, Rev. Dr. Jerry Drayton, Rev. Carlton A. G. Eversley Jr. and Sr., Rev. Ray Watlington, Rev. Ray Watlington, Dr. E. Banks, Roberta Groves, Rev. Stephanie Ellis, Rev. Otto Gaither and Rev. F.A. Lee.

Voter registration turnout

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But that's not the case," she added.

Henry Jones agreed, and said that a number of factors may have contributed to the low turnout. "I think you might put some of it to the inclement weather and the fact that so many things are happening today," he said. "I think generally the people who are really interested in politics just couldn't spread themselves out to too many places, so they went to one place or the other place. But the few that did come out here did enjoy themselves and I think it was worthwhile."

Denise "DD" Adams, chairperson of the Social Action Committee of the local Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, also thought the event was still a success. "We had a good turnout and I'm glad we did it," she said. Adams added that even though the weather was not at its best, more people should have come

out and supported the event.

"This is just as important as going to work everyday, and going to church, and going to other things in our life," she said. "And some of us let the weather, and I understand that, deter us from coming out. But registering to vote, or coming out and hearing from the people that you're going to elect, is important."

Dunn also thought that more people should have attended the event. "I'm kind of amazed at the fact that nobody's paying attention to the election," he said. "I don't mind if they don't pay attention to me. But they don't know that it's important. They don't know that the country is headed for a major depression, and unless they do

something about it by participating in voting, it's going to happen."

Although this is the last week to register to vote for the May 5 primary, Adams said that the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is planning to hold another voter registration drive either in August or September so that more people can register to vote before the November election.

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Mack

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it groups under the threat that former alderman Patrick Hairston would vote against them if they did not comply. The government also contends that money solicited for non-profit groups was cashed and not deposited into the proper accounts.

The Rev. Mack could not hide her emotion on Monday as Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Cannon told the judge that the government could not sufficiently link her to the racketeering and conspiracy counts, the first two counts of the 28-count indictment. She closed her eyes and held her chin high as a line of tears silently traced its way down her round cheeks.

Now that the racketeering and conspiracy charges against her have been dismissed, she faces one charge of perjury (lying to the grand jury) and one charge of obstruction of justice (falsifying documents). Specifically, the government charges that Mack presented to the grand jury falsified financial documents for the Back to Life Center that were prepared by Rodney Sumler.

Because the case is complicated, members of the jury were given note pads to help them keep track of the various charges against the four defendants, who each have their own lawyer. Judge Osteen said that in the interest of simplifying the trial, he wants the remaining charges against Mack to be heard by the same jury but in a separate trial which will begin immediately after the current trial ends.

During a break on Tuesday, Mack made her first formal statement to the press since the trial began.

"I see this as an attack on black males, on the black community as a whole. They are keeping the black community divided, pitting the black community against each other, weakening the strength of the leadership and causing the leadership to spend money for legal defense.

"People must get involved in the community. We must do it today, for tomorrow will be too late. We must learn the rules of the game of the power structure, what it protects and who it protects. Who are they trying to protect?"

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