Politicians don't want Barry

By CASSANDRA BURRELL Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -Long before former mayor Marion Barry returned to Washington last week, political and civic leaders appeared to launch an informal campaign to keep him from running for office — if not for good, then at least for this year.

Barry's best, and perhaps only, shot at winning election is in Southeast Washington's Ward 8, where longtime District of Columbia Councilwoman Wilhelmina Rolark is up for reelection. Barry still appears to have emotional ties to many voters there who believe he was harassed by the government.

Those close to Barry have said they think it's likely he will run there this fall, despite a resounding defeat in a citywide council race after his 1990 trial.

That prospect already has led

NEW YORK (AP) — The

Rev. Jesse Jackson said that if he

is not chosen as the Democratic

nominee for vice president he is

"prepared to react" in some

unspecified manner, according to

I've got the votes," the Daily

News quoted Jackson as saying.

"I see myself as a running mate

"I've got the experience and

Piedmont for Perot Committee

In his speech he noted that the

Chairman Vincent Shortt, held a

press conference Tuesday morning

to announce that the group has col-

group has distributed over 100,000

petitions. They urgently need these

petitions to be returned to the com-

mittee so the signatures can be veri-

25,000 petition signatures.

a published report today.

for the Democratic Party."

Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, D.C. Council Chairman John Wilson and many other city lawmakers no longer close to Barry to hand Rolark resounding endorsements that have doubled as blunt messages to Barry: Don't risk another political embarrassment.

Even among some prominent Barry backers, there is sentiment that he should settle into a private life instead of diving into a grueling campaign that could hamper his recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and spark more race and class tension in the dis-

Councilman H.R. Crawford, a friend of Barry's, has been in discussions with business and civic leaders in the city about finding the former mayor a new job well outside of politics.

"I don't think Marion should have to come back to this city with his hat in his hand," Crawford said recently. "He should have a good job, and we should just leave him alone."

Jackson wants v. p. candidacy

Jackson told the newspaper,

He did not indicate what he

Jackson said he believes the would be.

"We are ready for any opportunity

to serve but we are ready if we are

ignored or rejected.... If I am

rejected this time, I am prepared

would do if the Democratic presi-

dential nominee does not select

him as a running mate, the News

Perot supporters need help

fied and turned in to the State

Carolina is second only to Califor-

required to place Ross Perot on the

ballot. He feels this is due to a

political system tailored to preserve

signatures up until the June dead-

Volunteers will be collecting

According to Mr. Shortt, North

before the deadline in June.

the two party status quo.

lected only a third of its goal of nia in total number of signatures

Barry was convicted of a single count of misdemeanor possession of crack cocaine in August 1990 by a jury that viewed an undercover FBI video tape of the former mayor smoking crack in a hotel room.

He was released from a federal prison in Loretto, Pa., on Thursday after completing a sixmonth sentence for drug posses-

During a welcome home celebration this weekend, Barry gave no hint about his plans for the future, but said his past mistakes would not block future accomplishments.

"If I was able to do this much good while my life was out of control and I didn't know the grace of God, imagine the good I can do with your help and with God in my life," he told more than 800 people who gathered at Southeast Washington's Union Temple Baptist Church for a a prayer service.

likely nominee, Arkansas Gov.

Bill Clinton, "is a secure enough

person to choose me as his run-

him being intimidated by me," the

two-time Democratic presidential

candidate said. "There is a mutual

announced who his running mate

line, concentrating on major events,

shopping centers, and the primary

precinct locations. As Shortt noted

at the end of his speech, "This cam-

paign is not about filing a protest ...

quarters is located at, 1203 S. Main

Street in Winston-Salem, upstairs in

the Old Salem Log Home. Their

The Piedmont for Perot head-

it's about electing a president."

number is 724-6176.

"I haven't seen any sign of

Clinton has not yet

ning mate."

respect between us."

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