

Only black in sheriff's race says he has right stuff

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

James "Jim Bob" Campbell thought about running for Forsyth County sheriff nine years ago. He put it off because it wasn't the right time and he wasn't quite ready. Campbell, a Democrat, has thrown his hat into the race for sheriff this election year. He is the only African American in a crowded field seeking the job held by popular incumbent Ron Barker.

Campbell, who intends on campaigning with the purpose of "making Forsyth County the safest place in the world," is not thwarted by the historical absence of a black sheriff in the county and hopes his race will not negatively impact voters or hinder his campaign.

Campbell is also not threatened by Barker's many years of service to the county or by the credentials of other candidates. He says those with many years of law enforcement experience may be

"immune" to doing a good job.

"I've had law enforcement experience, but I have not worked in it a long time. So I am back in touch with the people, but I will be surrounded by people who have the experience. You want people to work for you that know the job better than you," said Campbell, who says he wanted to get in touch with the community from the inside out in order to devise a solid enough plan to protect the area if elected sheriff.

Campbell sees a need for change in the Sheriff's Department. He feels that social skills coupled with law enforcement training as well as consistent promotions and better benefits within the department will raise morale and send a positive but firm message to the community.

"A lot of people have lost respect for law enforcement, and for everybody. That's one of the major problems that I see," Campbell said.

Recalling the days when

he was growing up, Campbell longs to see the rapport between officers and civilians strengthened, so that a firm, mutual trust and respect will exist between the two.

"When law enforcement officers try to come and talk to you about something in the community, people kind of step back from that. That's because they feel like they're not being protected; no matter what kind of protection is provided, they're not seeing it on a level which they're used to seeing it in the past. I'd like to take it back to that level."

After serving in the U.S. Air Force as a law enforcement officer, Campbell then retired from the U.S. Postal Service after becoming injured on the job and now works for the Department of Social Services in the emergency systems program.

Campbell also would like to make town hall meetings a quarterly occurrence throughout the county so that the Sheriff's Department can measure the job it is doing and

determine what the residents need and expect from the department.

Although Campbell commends the job that Barker has done with the jails, Campbell still feels there is plenty more work to be done in reinforcing the local criminal system.

"A lot of people that commit crimes go to a jail that is like a recreation center. I think we need to close that recreation center down and still stay within the guidelines of the law," Campbell said.

Campbell views protecting Forsyth County residents from crime much like a parent views raising a child in that "you love that child, do everything you can to protect that child and to serve that child good, but at the same time you got to try to prevent that child from doing wrong. When they do wrong you need to punish that child."

Having been out of law enforcement for more than 27 years, Campbell prides himself on not straying too far from law enforcement, always

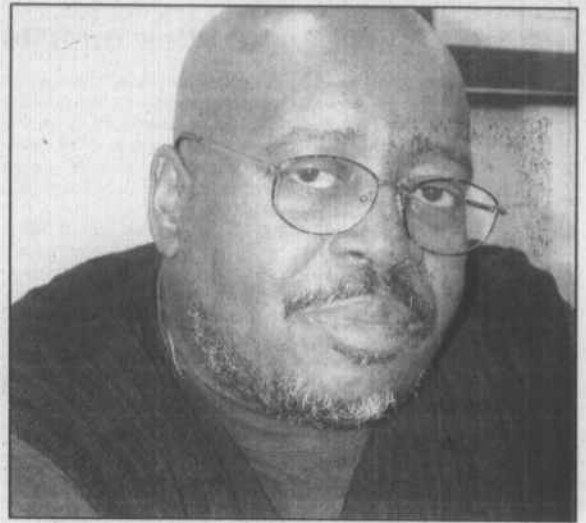


Photo by Courtney Gaillard
Jim Bob Campbell is hoping for an upset in the sheriff's race.

observing criminal trends and safety issues around the area. He furthered his education in police science at Forsyth Technical Community College and then went on to graduate

from Winston-Salem State University.

Campbell will face John Polite, C.C. McGee and Clarence Moody in the Democratic primary.

CenterPoint expects to lose up to \$500,000 in state funds

But official for state says no final decisions have been made

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Ronald W. Morton, area director of CenterPoint Human Services, the public mental health agency for Forsyth, Stokes and Davie counties, said Tuesday he expects the state to announce shortly that it will cut state funding for public mental health programs throughout North Carolina by more than \$10 million the remainder of this fiscal year (which will end June 30), which would mean a loss of \$350,000 to \$500,000 in state funds for



Morton

CenterPoint. Morton also said it is likely that the state will cut state funding for public mental health

programs by \$40 million statewide next fiscal year, which could mean a loss of \$1.4 million to \$2 million in state funds for CenterPoint. However, Mark Van Sciver, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said Wednesday, "There have been no final decisions on anything. There have been no figures, set by anybody, set for cuts at this point. It's still fluid."

He said he expects the state will announce soon any budget cuts related to the state budget deficit.

Morton said his information about the expected state budget cuts comes from a conference call he was involved in on Tuesday. On the conference call, he said, were area public mental health program directors from across the state and representatives of the trade association N.C. Council

of Community Programs. Morton said there were no state government officials involved in the call, but he said he is confident about the truth of the information that was given on the call. "I have no doubts at all," Morton said.

Morton said he has received no official notice from the state about budget cuts, but he has directed his executive team to begin looking into where cuts could be

made, hopefully in ways that would cause the least impact to services. He said it is too early yet to say where cuts would be made. He said his staff will take its recommendations about budget cuts to the board of directors of CenterPoint the third Thursday in March. CenterPoint board would make the final decision

about where budget cuts would be made.

Morton said that it's possible that some of his agency's programs would be exempted by the state from state budget cuts.

Morton said he thinks the state budget cuts will amount to 3 to 5 percent of CenterPoint's total state funds. "I

wouldn't call that devastating in the short term. If this level is sustained in the next (budget) year, it would be devastating."

CenterPoint has a total operating budget of just under \$35 million. Of that, between \$11 million and \$12 million comes from the state, Morton said.

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NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MBE	WBE
6.051044	Dare/Hyde	Construction of passenger/vehicle ferry	NC-12 from Hatteras Village to Ocracoke Island	English	0%		
8.1242002	Duplin	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Northeast Cape Fear River and approaches on NC-41/50 near Chinquapin	English	10%		
8.2250108	New Hanover	Widening, grading, drainage, paving and structures	Smith Creek Parkway from proposed US-117 Connector to east of 23rd Street	Metric	9%		
8.2312001	Johnston	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over a branch and approaches on SR-1553	Metric	10%		
8.2321501	Nash	Grading, drainage, paving, and structure	Bridge over Stoney Creek and approaches on SR-1435 at Nashville	English	9%		
8.2430501	Columbus	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Frair Swamp and approaches on SR-1740 (Old Lake Road)	English	7%		
8.2462101	Robeson	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over CSX Transportation System and approaches on SR-100	English	5%		
5.4641028	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
5.4641029	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
5.4641030	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
8.1511501	Rockingham	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Mayo River and approaches on US-220 Business	English	9%		
9.8079843	Guilford	Widening, drainage, paving and signing	NC-68 from South of SR-1556 (Gallimore Dairy Road) to North of Triad Center Drive	English		40%	5%
8.1602201	Davidson	Median guiderail	I-85 from US-29/52/70/85 business to south of NC-109	English	12%		
8.2751001	Watauga	Grading, drainage, paving and culvert	Culvert on Clarks Creek and approaches on SR-1136	English	5%		
8.1792305	Catawba	Widening, grading, drainage, paving and culvert ext.	SR-1692 (Tate Boulevard Ext) from east of SR-1468 (Sweetwater Road) to SR-1476 (Fairgrove Church Road)	Metric	10%		
8.2812102	Gaston	Grading, drainage, paving and culvert	RC Box Culvert at Forest Brook Branch and approaches on SR 2444 (Gaston Day School Road)	English	9%		
8.2941001	Haywood	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge of Fines Creek and approaches on SR-1334	English	10%		
8.2580801	Richmond	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over CSX Transportation System and approaches on SR-1713 (Rice Street) in Hamlet	Metric	5%		
8.1402210	Wake (8 weeks advertisement)	Grading, drainage, paving and structures	US-64 from I-440 (Raleigh Beltline) to New Hope Road	Metric	11%		

***** MONDAY, March 18, 2002 6 PM - MIDNIGHT *****

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: March 19, 2002

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn
 Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes
 Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard: Director



FREE LEAF MULCH

The city will offer free loading of leaf mulch (as long as quantities last) on Saturday, March 9, 16, 23, & 30 and Friday, March 29 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Reynolds Pk. Rd. leaf site, behind Reynolds Pk. Recreation Center, 2450 Reynolds Pk. Rd.

From I-40, take Hwy. 52 south, take Stadium Dr. and left at top of ramp, take right onto M. L. King Jr. Dr., take left onto Reynolds Pk. Rd., after passing the recreation center, take immediate right onto paved street and proceed left to enter fenced-in area.

For more information, call 727-8418.



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