

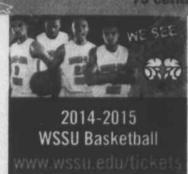
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-See Page B1



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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. THURSDAY, December 11, 2014

Black & Blue

African-American law enforcers react to Ferguson, NYC uproars

BY CHANEL DAVIS THE CHRONICLE

Hairston

As both a former Winston-Salem Police sergeant and Winston-Salem Branch NAACP president, Stephen Hairston sees the police-inflicted deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner and other black men through a unique prism.

Hairston retired from active police duty more than a decade ago; he now works as a WSPD background investigator. His NAACP presidency ended four years ago. Yet, when grand juries failed to bring

indictments against the officer who killed Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Garner in New York City, his phone began to ring incessantly.

"They want to protest and do something because they feel so powerless by what's going on," said Hairston, who says he has reassured callers Winston-Salem is not like Ferguson, or New York, for

Hairston said he understands frustration. He, too, has been dismayed by the criminal jus-

tice system. "I am hurt,

that matter.

embarrassed, and being a black person with a young black male, I'm worried. I've gone through all types of emotions," he said. "I was disappointed in those cases in particular. I personally disagreed with the grand jury decision but I'm just one of millions."

Glenn Bratton, a retired Gaston County Police officer who is president of the statewide black law enforcement group North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, said he has reserved judgment in the Brown and Garner cases, but says they have created an even wider rift between law enforcers and the community. He says developing proactive solutions is the answer.

"Anytime there's violence and people are upset about something, it doesn't help," he said. "Hopefully, there are going to be some people that will be proactive in developing that relationship. There are a lot of things that are going to be done on both sides before that relationship can start to heal.'

Bratton said the public should try to understand that law enforcement officers are just but a small part of the overall criminal justice system. He believes at the root of some of the anger is the belief that police played a part in the grand jury process

"A lot of people miss the point that even though the police are part of the criminal



Winston-Salem State students hold a campus rally in the wake of the grand jury's decision in the Michael Brown case. Students answer activism's call

BY CHANEL DAVIS THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem University, Salem College and Wake Forest University students are joining their contemporaries around the nation in expressing their dissatisfaction with what they see as the justice system's devaluing of

black lives. Saturday, students capped the city's annual tree lighting ceremony in Corpening Plaza with their hands raised and chants of "Black Lives Matter." The "Hands Up/Black



Javar Jones

spread across the country since two separate grand juries failed to indict white police Lives Matter movement has officers in the deaths of University



Shelby Rittman

unarmed black men Michael Brown and Eric Garner. Winston-Salem

Student



Olivia Sedwick

Government President Olivia Sedwick was among the student protesters.

See Students on A8

Search for UL leader has yet to start

THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Urban League is still without a permanent leader, nearly a year after its former president and

Don Williams was named the interim president/CEO in February. At the time, Board Chair Evelyn Acree said he



would serve in that role for a minimum of three months and a maximum of six months. It's been 10 months since Williams' appointment.

"The (Winston-Salem Urban League) Board has not begun the search for the permanent president and CEO," Acree, senior VP and Piedmont Triad Regional executive for Mechanics & Farmers Bank, said Monday. "The board will make a decision on when the search will begin in the near future."

Former leader Keith Grandberry resigned after some on the board questioned his leadership and abilities to manage the agency. Williams, a retired Lowe's Home Improvement executive who is a former member and chairman of the local Urban League Board, said the board quickly determined after he was hired that he would need more than six months See Police on A7 1 to fix some of the agency's longstanding problems.



"There are a few more things we need to get squared away," Williams said. "I will be here as long as the board

needs me. Fixing the agency's financial house and its physical house (renovations are planned at its aging 201 W. 5th St. headquarters) are top priorities, Williams said. This year has been dedicated to getting the nonprofit organization into financial compliance to satisfy recent audits conducted by funders like the City of Winston-Salem and the federal gov-

School Board freshmen begin their tenures

Photo by Todd Luck New members (from left) Barr, Goins Lori Clark, Deanna Taylor, Dana Caudill Jones, David Singletary and Johnson.



BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

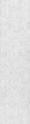
An orientation was held Thursday, Dec. 4 for the six new members of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, a few days before they were officially sworn in.

For the first time, the new members took their seats behind the stately semi-circular table in the auditorium of the Education Building, where the



See Board on A2











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