

What is he saying?

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'BLACK LIVES MATTER'



Winston-Salem Police Chief Barry Rountree and Olivia Sedwick, the president of Winston-Salem State University's Student Government Association, prepare to take questions from the audience at the "Black Lives Matter Late Night Musical" event on Friday, March 27.

City officials, coalition promote night event with police chief

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

The event was in a church and a pastor was in charge, but the "Black Lives Matter Late Night Musical" event showcased several city officials, including the mayor, making a pitch to an audience of young and old mostly black people Friday night, March 27.

The event started at 10 p.m. in a packed Diggs Memorial United Holy

Church, south of downtown Winston-Salem.

Gospel choirs, a mime group, a gospel rap group and others entertained the audience after a program educating the audience on the Police Department and community relations was presented.

"It is important for me to be here as mayor of this city to say 'black lives matter,'" Mayor Allen Joines said.

The phrase has been

used since police killed Michael Brown and Eric Garner, two unarmed black males, last year. The slayings prompted outrage and demonstrations nationwide, including in Winston-Salem.

The Friday event was billed as one sponsored by the mayor and the Faith-based Coalition, which includes several city and federal-level officials and Winston-Salem NAACP president S. Wayne

Patterson. Coalition members at the event were Patterson, Council Member Derwin Montgomery and Police Chief Barry Rountree.

Diggs Memorial's group My Brother's Keeper, also is a member of the coalition.

"This is meaningful for a lot of different reasons," Montgomery said. He said all sectors of the community should be in constant dialogue.

See Lives on A2

Bill calls for oversight in citizen review boards and diversity training for law enforcement

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina House legislators have united to present state representatives with a bill that is designed to help end racial profiling throughout the state.

House Bill 193 was filed on March 10 by Rep. Rodney Moore (D-Mecklenburg) and passed its first reading on March 11. On the same day, the bill was sent to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill has been sponsored and co-sponsored by

more than 20 members of the house and calls for more diversity training for law enforcement, maintenance of and additional oversight through Citizen Review Boards to prevent profiling



Hanes

Winston-Salem Citizens' Police Review Board

Winston-Salem Citizens' Police Review Board Mayor Allen Joines is currently accepting applications from residents interested in serving on the Citizens' Police Review Board. The board has two openings and the applications must be received by April 10. The application form, along with a description of the board, is available through the Boards and Commissions link at Mayor.CityofWS.org, or by calling the Mayor's office at 336-727-2058. Applications may be faxed to the Mayor's Office at 336-748-3241 or mailed to P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

of any type -- nationality, race, religion, etc., by police.

The bill comes at a time when most Americans

See Review on A2

NAACP must have new election for W-S branch

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Winston-Salem Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) finally have an answer to a long-awaited question.

For months members have been in limbo as to what to do about the results from an election in January.

The state NAACP was brought in to assist with an election in January after Incumbent S. Wayne Patterson, who has been president since 2010, asked that the election be monitored, implying that bylaws and procedures were not being adhered to.

The complaint sent to the national office stated that campaign material was passed out inside of the 50-foot buffer zone and that there were no printed ballots. at that election. The issue of campaign material was not addressed in the national office's letter regarding the election results.

Isaac "Ike" Howard was elected president in the Jan. 10 election. Other winners were Doris Herrell, first vice president; Harry James Jr., third vice president; Stephen Hairston, assistant treasurer; and Jim Shaw and Linda Sutton, who won executive board seats. The second vice president position is empty and neither the secretary nor treasurer positions were challenged.

Those results are now null and void.

Patterson, a Winston-Salem native, said that he feels vindicated in his decision to call in oversight for the election.

"The results confirmed what I said," he said. "I understand the policies of the NAACP and I knew that the polices and procedures were in violation. However, after the national office stated that we were in violation, they mandated a new election date."

Howard said that he is just fine with holding another election.

"Being a part of the NAACP, a civil rights organization, we follow the mandate of due process. We can't ask for due process unless we follow the rules of due process ourselves, on the national and state level," he said.

A letter, dated March 3, on NAACP letterhead, states: "The National Office has received a complaint that was postmarked within the five (5) days after the election and signed by the twenty-five (25) members of the Branch as prescribed by the Bylaws for Units (Article IX, Section 2 (o)). The allegation pertains to the failure to use printed ballots. In accordance with sub-section (a), the National Office has reviewed the matter to determine if the allegations, if true, would have affected the outcome of the election or if they are devoid of merit and/or frivolous.

The National Board of Directors reviewed the findings of the National Staff at the February 21, 2015, board meeting and directed that a new election take place..."

The letter is signed by NAACP President and CEO Cornell Brooks, with CC's to the Rev. William Barber, state president; Rev. Gill Ford, the National Director of Unit Administration; and the Winston-Salem (Forsyth) County Branch Executive Committee.

The new election will be done, again, by the state conference and would only be open to those members who would've been eligible to vote on the date of the originally scheduled election on Nov. 19, 2014.

So what does that mean to those officers who were seemingly elected in January?

The letter states:

"In accordance with Article IX, Section 2(o)(c), the

See Election on A2



Patterson



Howard

Geneva Brown's legacy remains intact, daughter says

Community celebration of her life set for April 25

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

Well-known educator and former school board member Geneva Anita Bland Brown made a tremendous mark on the community that endures to this day, her daughter said.

"The work that she started is still going on," said Wynne Brown, the director of student health services at Winston-Salem State University. "The impetus that she provided is like a train that can't be stopped."

Geneva Brown died at her home at age 84 on Thursday, March 26 after an extended illness. A public community celebration of her life has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25 at 4 p.m. (The family has changed the time from 1 p.m.) at Atkins High School.

Geneva Brown's commitment to everything she did stands out in Wynne Brown's mind.

Most people know Geneva Brown as an innovative teacher, principal, administrator and former member of the Board of Education for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County



Brown

See Brown on A4

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