



Members of the Winston-Salem City Council take a break with U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, who is wearing the hat. Council members are: (L-R) Derwin L. Montgomery, Mayor Allen Joines, Denise "D.D." Adams, Molly Leight, Jeff McIntosh and Robert C. Clark.

Adams, City Council talk about initiatives at special meeting

BY NIKKI BALDWIN FOR THE CHRONICLE

On the morning of Monday, July 20, U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (D-12th) joined several council members in a special City Council meeting in the Public Works Conference room in City Hall.

The meeting started with the council members thanking Adams for attending the council meeting.

Then Adams discussed her serious concern with the Hunger Initiative. Adams discussed the roundtable meeting that was held at the food bank in Winston-Salem that aims to work with children in poverty. Adams then discussed participating in the SNAP challenge with her daughter. She explained learning about the difficulties the people face trying to live off of SNAP and expressed her own difficulties, because she is diabetic.

North Ward Council Member Denise "D.D." Adams also expressed her concern for the Hunger Initiative, which she said she is passionate about. Council members discussed the workshops that consisted of roundtable

discussions about talks on feeding people and how to move forward where results can be measured one year from now that the people can actually see.

Adams said, "living off of \$4 a day is difficult, especially when you include the tax when shopping, which makes a difference." She explained the search for organizations to partner with that will help with the initiative.

The renovation of Union Station was then discussed when Adams was given an update. Union Station, which is still in the design phase, could later become a long-distance passenger rail, which can be accomplished if funding from a certain grant is received. It will help develop the station to its full capacity.

Mayor Allen Joines discussed the Youth Bill grant about connecting with Forsyth Tech and the different ways to make training for jobs more relevant to today. Council member Derwin Montgomery talked about the bill as well. He expressed tailoring programs that coincide with the need of today's local economy.

Council Member Robert C. Clark talked

about his own difficulty with finding employees for his manufacturing company, which differs from the jobs of our fathers, because of the high volume of computer work involved today.

Adams ended the meeting discussing the HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) caucus, which consists of 52 members, and how there is national dialogue about the importance of the schools. Adams then expressed the need for Pell Grants for students year round and talked about working with members of the White House with the hope of more students getting the opportunity.

The meeting was attended by: Joines; Earlene Parmon, director of outreach for Adams' office; Clark, West Ward council member; Jeff McIntosh, Northwest Ward council member; Leslie Mazingo, Washington lobbyist; Molly Leight, South Ward council member; Lee D. Garity, city manager; Angela L. Carmon, city attorney; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Montgomery, East Ward council member; firefighters; and members of the Police Department.

page bill with sweeping changes after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which required states and counties with a history of discrimination to get pre-clearance from the U.S. Justice Department for voting changes.

In regard to the voter fraud cited by lawmakers as a reason for House Bill 589, Dr. Morgan Kousser, a social science professor at the California Institute of Technology, said that between 2000 and 2013, there were only two cases of prosecuted voter fraud out of 12 million votes in the state.

"It is unlikely that proven voter fraud is a legitimate explanation for the adoption of the bill," he said.

When asked by state attorneys if he could point out a legislator with discriminatory intent, Kousser said he didn't find any "smoking guns."

Witnesses testified to being disenfranchised by the law. William Kittrell of Greensboro registered when he was 18 but had since moved and wasn't aware he needed to change his registration. After waiting in line to early vote in October 2014, he found out he wasn't in the system. Before changes in the law, he would've been able to do same day registration and vote.

"I waited to vote basically all my life," he said. "I was disappointed and frustrated because my mom had always told me how important it was to vote."

Witness Terrilin Cunningham of Concord testified she has a hectic life, which involves working three jobs and taking care of a sick church member. When she squeezed in a stop for voting she was told she was in the wrong precinct. She tried to cast a provisional ballot, which

she later found out didn't count because out of precinct voting is no longer allowed.

Nadia Cohen of Cary, an 18 year-old who will be attending UNC Chapel Hill for college, missed the voting registration period for 2014. She said she thought she could pre-register like her older brother had done and was caught unaware of the change until it was too late.

According to expert witness Dr. D. Sunshine Hillygus, a Duke University professor, states with pre-registration have a 13 percent increase in youth turnout.

The trial continues this week and is expected to last several weeks.



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August community health seminars, screenings and events

Visit WakeHealth.edu/BestHealth for class descriptions and other events. Events are FREE of charge and require registration, unless otherwise noted.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Advance Directives \ 2 to 4 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Yoga for Arthritis \ 4 to 5 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Clemmons, 2311
Lewisville—Clemmons Road,
Clemmons

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Cardio Blast \ 3 to 4 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

**Back to School & Your Grocery Cart
Noon to 1 pm**
Lowes Foods, 2890 Reynolda Road,
Winston-Salem

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

**Eliminating Diseases: Imaging
Methods \ Noon to 1 pm**
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

Skin Care Essentials \ 5 to 6 pm

Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

Knife Skills: Technique 6 to 7:30 pm

Wake Forest Baptist Health Davie
Medical Center, Plaza 1, 4th floor,
conference rooms 1 and 2, Hwy 801 N,
I-40 (Exit 180), Bermuda Run.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

**Knife Skills: Technique
Noon to 1:30 pm**
Brenner FIT in the William G. White
Jr. Family YMCA, 775 West End Blvd.,
Winston-Salem

To register, call or visit:

336-713-BEST (2378) \ WakeHealth.edu/BestHealth

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

**Back to School & Your Grocery Cart
4 to 5 pm**
Lowes Foods, 3372 Robinhood Road,
Winston-Salem

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

**Stay in Circulation – Facts about
Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
4 to 5 pm**
Wake Forest Baptist Health Piedmont
Plaza One, Kitty Hawk Room, 1920 W.
First St., Winston-Salem

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

**Lower Back Pain Prevention:
Facts & Myths \ 3 to 4 pm**
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

Balance Screening \ 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Piedmont
Plaza One, Kitty Hawk Room, 1920 W.
First St., Winston-Salem

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

**Long-term Care Planning
2 to 3 pm**
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

Breast Health: What Do I Need to Know? \ 5 to 6 pm

Wake Forest Baptist Health Davie
Medical Center, Plaza 1, 4th floor,
conference rooms 1 and 2, Hwy 801 N
I-40 (Exit 180), Bermuda Run

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

**Protect Yourself from Strain & Pain:
Computer Ergonomics
4 to 5 pm**
Wake Forest Baptist Health
Medical Plaza—Country Club, 4610
Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

BLUE LOTUS TRADING CO

NEW LOCATION
53 Miller St, Winston-Salem
(Whole Foods Shopping Complex)
336-448-0258
Monday - Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-5

Trial

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Americans or Latinos are not allowed to vote."

The state also argued that every North Carolinian had the same opportunity to adapt to the voting changes. Lawyers for the plaintiffs used a series of witnesses to establish that socioeconomic disadvantages exist for African-Americans. These inequalities result in a higher likelihood of barriers like lack of education, transportation and Internet access that make it harder to adapt to voting restrictions.

"What may appear to be 'equal' costs imposed by a restriction on voting practices are, in fact, more acute for Black and Latino voters," testified Barry Burden, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "These groups are doubly burdened because they have fewer of the resources needed to overcome those costs and vote."

When state lawyers pointed out that black turnout actually rose in the 2014 election despite the voting changes, Burden said there were a couple reasons for that, which probably won't happen again. One was the draw of the race between then U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan and Thom Tillis, which was the most expensive race in the country, inundating voters with non-stop advertising. Another was the massive efforts to educate and mobilize voters by the N.C. NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Several expert witnesses testified that H.B. 589 curtailed voting practices disproportionately used by African-Americans like early voting, pre-registration and same day registration. They also said the law changed from a 12-page bill on voter ID to a 40-