

# WSPD takes the stage during Part Two of Black & Blue Town Hall

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

There were few empty seats inside The Enterprise Center last Thursday evening, during Part Two of the Winston-Salem Urban League's Black & Blue Town Halls. Community leaders, community activists and other concerned residents filed into the event hall, with ears eager to hear members of the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) discuss how they are trying to improve community relationships.

During the event, Chief Barry Rountree and Assistant Chief Katrina

Thompson took questions from residents, while detailing various ways they are working with community organizations and members to improve relations. Rountree mentioned officers have received additional training on how to deal with civilians. He also mentioned every officer is required to interact with a certain number of residents each day.

"We require our officers to get out and talk to people," he said. "We want the people in the city to know that we are here to protect and serve and we can't do that without them."

When asked about the

over-policing of certain neighborhoods in the city, Rountree said, "Although it may seem we are in certain places more than others, the WSPD has the same number of officers patrolling every neighborhood."

He also discussed the Winston-Salem Police Foundation. He said his goal is to have a sports league that would give young people a chance to engage with police.

Thompson discussed the training officers received in Mexico, designed to improve the relationship with the Hispanic population in the

area. Following the event, longtime community activist Al Jabbar said although he was glad to see the WSPD engage in open dialogue with the commu-

nity, more needs to be done.

"These talks are good, but talking isn't enough," he continued. "We've talked enough. Now it's time we see some action."

Part Three of the Black & Blue Town Halls will be held in the fall.

For more information contact the Winston-Salem Urban League at 336-245-2710.



Photo by Tevin Stinson  
Residents filled the Enterprise Center last Thursday evening during Part Two of the Winston-Salem Urban League's Black & Blue Town Hall Series. The Three part series is designed to improve the relationship between the community and the Winston-Salem Police Department.

## Smith

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embarrassment for the state, like HB2 has been to many.

"It will become a national embarrassment, we believe, for North Carolina," said Boyd. "and then the question is what will the attorney general do about that?"

HB2, a law many believe is discriminatory, is resulting in boycotts of the state. Cooper has refused to defend the law in court. Supporters of Smith, including the N.C. NAACP, have been asking Cooper to do the same with the Smith case and join Coleman in asking for a new trial.

Boyd said that the com-

mittee has sent reports to Cooper on the case's flaws. One was from the Silk Plant Forest Citizens Review Committee, which was empaneled by the City Council to review the original case, which concluded it did not have "confidence in the investigation" and found no credible evidence Smith was at Silk Plant Forest. The other was from former Assistant FBI Director Christopher Swecker, who determined a new trial was needed to answer serious questions about the case.

The N.C. Supreme Court denied Smith's appeal last week, which focused on a 2008 affidavit in which police officer Arnita Miles said Marker identified her attacker as a black man. In Miles' origi-

nal report she said Marker was incoherent and could not describe the attacker. Coleman said that he believes prosecutors may have secretly used it to influence the case, though it was not filed in court.

Smith's appeals also accuse Detective Don Williams of not pursuing a white suspect, Kenneth Lamoureux, after he moved out of town, and instead coerced witnesses to place Smith at the crime scene. Lamoureux died in 2011.

"Unlocking the Truth" airs Wednesdays at 11 p.m. on MTV. It can also be watched online at [mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com/shows/unlocking-the-truth/tv-schedule). Check out the schedule at <http://www.mtv.com/shows/unlocking-the-truth/tv-schedule>.



Photo by Todd Luck  
Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Deborah Ross speaks to seniors at Southside Library on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

## Ross

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Judges Lisa Menefee and Denise Hartsfield, City Council Members Denise "D.D." Adams, Derwin Montgomery and Dan Besse.

The race between Ross and Burr is extremely tight, with a Real Clear Politics average of polls showing Burr up by only 1 point. Ross also raised more than Burr in the second quarter, getting \$2.1 million to his \$1.6 million.

"People all over the country, they're giving me money for the race because they want to take back the Senate and they know the road to taking back the

Senate goes straight through North Carolina," she said.

Burr still has a money advantage, with \$7 million in cash on hand in June compared to \$1.9 million for Ross.

Ross answered questions from attendees on a variety of topics. On mass incarceration, she said reform was needed to keep low-level offenders out of jail, and she promised to stand up to special interests like for-profit prisons. On poverty, she said she'd create jobs with infrastructure projects, and by taking tax breaks away from companies that export jobs, while giving them to companies that bring jobs to the United States.

Ross, a lawyer and former state lawmaker, mentioned her time working with the late Earline Parmon, when they both served in the General Assembly. She talked fondly about working together with Parmon, who she said she felt very close to.

Many have attributed the serious challenge Ross is giving Burr to Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's effect on down-ballot candidates. Polls are finding Trump to be trailing behind Democrat Hillary Clinton and to be disliked by voters.

Ross said that she believes that in her race, voters simply dislike Burr, who she says hasn't been serving North Carolina. She said she expects to get dissatisfied Independent and Republican voters in November because the state is "on fire" for Democrats.

"We're going to take the state back," she told attendees at Democratic headquarters.

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