

Clinton campaign opens W-S office

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A crowd filled the new Winston-Salem campaign office of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during its Thursday, Sept. 15 opening.

With a little more than two months until Election Day, polls show the race between Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump tightening. The Real Clear Politics average of polls has tended to show Clinton leading in the last few months, but that lead has shrunk to less than a percentage point both nationally and in North Carolina.

Hillary for North Carolina has opened 33 coordinated campaign

offices and recruited more than 40,000 volunteers statewide. The Winston-Salem office was one of four field offices the campaign opened last Thursday.

City Council Member D.D. Adams fired up the crowd, repeating what she told Hillary Clinton's



daughter, Chelsea, who participated in a forum with Adams at Wake Forest University last week.

"We got this, Forsyth County will be blue!" she



Photos by Todd Luck
City Council Member D.D. Adams fires up the crowd at the Hillary Clinton campaign office opening on Thursday, Sept. 15.

said. Afterwards, Adams said she believed that Clinton, a former lawyer, first lady, senator and secretary of state, was the most qualified candidate. She said it'll take a huge voter turnout of the African-Americans, women and young people that helped elect President Barack Obama to win North Carolina and keep the presidency in Democratic hands.

"If we expect to move the needle as much as President Obama has

moved it in his eight years, we need Hillary Clinton," she said.

Regional Organizing Coordinator Emma Goodacre told attendees that the Affordable Care Act, which ended pre-existing conditions and made it possible for millions more Americans to get health insurance, was foremost on her mind in this campaign. She said her brother went six weeks without medical care for his cancer because he was scared of being denied insurance due to a preexist-

ing condition, and finally sought care when ACA went into effect. Republicans have pledged to end the ACA and have tried to repeal it in Congress dozens of times.

"We can't let the Republicans take these things away from us," she said.

Among the many people listening in the audience was Attorney S. Wayne Patterson. He said he wanted to be a part of history, as the country elects its first female president. The former NAACP

president said he felt Clinton will help the African-American community.

"I feel she understands the plight of the African-American community and not only that, but I think she's one to stand up for low income individuals," he said.

Also there was Dan Moury, a longtime Democrat who was an avid Bernie Sanders supporter in the primary and whose son, Jim, helped open a grass roots Sanders office in Winston-Salem during that contest.

"Hillary is the best candidate we got this election," he said.

The Hillary for North Carolina office is located at 520 North Spring St.

Mothers of the Movement urge blacks to vote

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

They are members of a dreaded club they say no one wants to join. Their black children were all killed, either by a law enforcement officer, or someone with a gun. In each case, their child was an innocent victim, not only of the deed, but of the lack of justice that followed.

They are known as "The Mothers of the Movement," and they captivated the nation last July when they walked out on stage during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Three of them - Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner; Maria Hamilton, mother of Dontre Hamilton; and Geneva Reed-Veal, mother of Sandra Bland - spent Monday and Tuesday of this week speaking at events in the African-American communities of Greensboro at N.C. A & T University, Durham, Charlotte and Fayetteville, sharing their pain, and urging their audiences to vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton in the November presidential election.

The Clinton campaign sponsored the mothers' tour.

During their hour-long session at North Carolina Central University's School of Law Monday in Durham, the mothers talked to students there about how their children were killed, how the black community must mobilize to stem the escalating tide of police killings and why they individually believed Hillary Clinton when she met with them, and promised, if elected president, that she would work to reform the criminal justice system so that police officers are held to greater accountability in incidents involving the killing of innocent citizens.

"Well of course if our children were not dead, we wouldn't be [on tour] speaking," said Reed-Veal, whose daughter, Sandra Bland, 28, died in a Texas jail cell after she was arrested after a minor traffic stop last year. "But we're grateful to be able to go around and make young people understand, 'Your voice matters too. This is serious business. We care enough about you to get out here and speak to all of you across the country.'

"So it's a big deal," Reed-Veal said, "A big deal."

The cries of Gwen Carr's son Eric Garner of "I can't breathe, I can't breathe" on the smartphone video taken while five New York City police officers strangled him to death on a Staten Island street two years ago still haunts anyone who saw it.

Like Reed-Veal and Maria Hamilton, Carr assures that her child was a

good son who did nothing to deserve to die. A Staten Island grand jury refused to indict the officers involved, even though there was evidence they were using an outlawed chokehold.

"I [posthumously] made a promise to my son that I would speak out, and be the voice of the voiceless, and the nameless, because some people don't have a voice," Carr said, adding that the mission of the mothers is to bring

about awareness in hopes that many, especially young people, are listening.

"We've got to try to touch the consciousness of America," Carr added.

Maria Hamilton says police officers aren't doing their jobs when they hurt or kill innocent citizens. Her youngest son, Dontre, was shot 14 times after he was confronted sleeping on a park bench in Milwaukee, just because a beat officer mistakenly thought he was

a black homeless person scaring away customers at local businesses.

Hamilton says she was brought up in a family of police officers who didn't have to resort to lethal force to do their jobs. She added that in many other countries, the police are trained to deescalate incidents, and don't even carry weapons.

"You don't know nothing about me, and you take my life? That is not your

job," Hamilton said.

Critics of the Mothers of the Movement accuse them of being used by the Clinton campaign, but they insist that they're not, and the fact that Hillary Clinton has taken time to listen to their pain, and promise to do something about police brutality, among other issues, has convinced them that she is worth endorsing, and campaigning.



Photo by Cash Michaels

Mothers of the Movement left to right are Geneva Reed-Veal, Maria Hamilton (standing) and Gwen Carr.

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