

## District remap on election board's agenda

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a Republican or Democratic candidate because of its demographics - new development coupled with annexation."

District 4 includes the majority African American communities of Hidden Valley and Hampshire Hills, as well as the fast-growing areas around UNC Charlotte.

"Some Republicans are trying to jockey for position to strengthen their presence in this community," Cannon said. "Obviously there is a pattern

that exist that Republicans still get into office, regardless of where they reside."

Democrats want to maintain the status quo, but Mayor Pat McCrory vetoed their plan which was passed 6-5 along party lines Monday night. He then tried and failed to get an outside group to select a redistricting plan.

City redistricting will be on the agenda when the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections meets today.

"The reality is the district's ought to be in place by early

May, so maps can be prepared, voters can be assigned to districts and preparation for the election can begin," Elections Supervisor Bill Culp said earlier this month.

Culp said that since district elections began in 1977, redistricting has usually involved minimum changes to districts.

"We have never had this problem before," Culp said. "This year, tradition is out of the window."

A plan must have at least seven votes to be veto-proof. Republicans would need at

least two Democrats to vote their way.

"Until they get somebody to cross party lines and support a map, they are deadlocked," Culp said.

Filing for city elections are scheduled to open July 4, though July 7 is the first business day. The primary is scheduled for Sept. 23 and the general election is Nov. 4.

It is possible to hold the mayoral and at-large council elections on schedule, if the districts are not ready, Culp said.

## Review board gains momentum

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review proposal.

"Cannon has emerged as a statesman in his handling of the review board," Davis said. "He has done a great job. He has been open to input from other sources and he has done a good job of documentation.

"He has been politically astute in his handling of it with his fellow council persons. He had not been overbearing and he has been willing to go to any group or individual who wanted to hear more about his plan to answer their questions and get their input."

It was the police shooting of unarmed motorist Windy Gail Thompson in December 1993 that revived the idea of citizen oversight of police. Earlier proposals had failed and when Cannon raised the issue, the plan fared no better.

Only Cannon and fellow council member Nasif Majeed voiced public support and the plan died, in part because the N.C. General Assembly would have had to approve. The legislature had killed an earlier plan.

After James Willie Cooper was shot and killed by a police officer

in November, the community again called for citizen review. The cry seemed to fall on deaf ears among council members, but Cannon kept working. The public outcry grew and grassroots and mainstream organizations began calling for citizens review.

Cannon's strategy was to present the outline of exactly what a citizens review board would look like and what it would do.

Earlier proposals had been vague on details, permitting "study" and "debate" to delay action.

Ironically, the Cannon Amendment was presented to the City Council in April, one day before Carolyn Boetticher, another African American woman, was killed as she rode with a driver who ran a police road block off Rozelles Ferry Road.

No decision has been made on disciplinary or criminal action on the two officers involved in the Boetticher shooting. The officer who shot Cooper was cleared of wrongdoing, as was the officer who shot Thompson. The city did agree to pay Thompson's two children \$550,000, however.

Community emotion has moved the citizens review board

proposal to the front burner and made adoption of some type of proposal likely. Cannon said this week the proposal accepted by most council members would have 11 members and would be named the Citizens Review Board. The mayor and city manager would appoint three members each and city council would appoint five.

Cannon favors letting the council appoint the board's chair, perhaps with the mayor appointing the vice chair.

The board would report its findings to the city manager, who would then get a response from the police chief.

Unless state personnel privacy law is changed, the board's hearings would have to be closed to the public, Cannon said.

Though the first board members would not have to have prior attendance at the police training academy, subsequent appointees would. The first board would get the citizens training after appointment. Members would serve three-year terms.

People convicted of felonies or serious misdemeanors would not be eligible. A two-thirds vote of the council would be necessary to

remove a sitting board member.

The Citizens Review Board would be required to make at least two reports to city council each year, but would also consider cases brought to it when citizens were not satisfied with results of a police Internal Affairs Division investigation, Cannon said.

The board may also be able to initiate its own investigations, Cannon said.

"I would hope that would be the case," he said. "Someone may not have loved ones to file complaints on their behalf, the homeless, battered wives and women, for example. The review board could look at those cases and ask that they be considered for review."

"The board would have authority to look at ways we might be able to prevent a citizen or even an officer, from being the victim of an excessive or deadly force incident."

Final details of the proposed board are being worked out, but Cannon feels good about the plan's chances of passage. A majority of council members and Mayor Pat McCrory have voiced support of some type of citizens review.

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## Sudan pact slammed

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Army John Garang. Garang, who dubbed the agreement a sellout, is the commander of the NDA forces, which was hurriedly put together in neighboring Eritrea late last year. The force has captured a strip a territory along the Eritrea and Ethiopia borders in the past four months.

But Kelueljang said the peace group would appeal to Garang's forces to come home and participate in the referendum. "We have been demanding self-determination since 1947 and now we have got that chance. It will be a shame for southerners not to vote," he said.

The conflict in the Sudan erupted in 1955. After 17 years

of war, former president Gaafar Nimeiri signed an accord with the South Sudan Liberation Movement which had led the fight for the southerners up to that point, granting the south local autonomy within an united Sudan. That agreement collapsed in 1983 after it was abrogated by Nimeiri, who then further angered the southerners by imposing the Islamic sharia laws across the country.

The southerners, who form about 40 percent of the country's 30 million population, turned to the guerrillas again. An armed rebellion began, this time led by the Sudan People's Liberation Army, to establish a "united democratic secular Sudan."

## Find a comfort zone when being interviewed

Michelle  
White



WBTV NewsChannel 3

once the camera starts rolling. So to make the interview a pleasant experience, I go the "extra mile," often taking time I do "not" have to comfort that individual.

Here are some tips you might find valuable if you ever find yourself in front of a TV camera:

1.) The interview is "not" live unless the reporter says differently. "Don't sweat it." The reporter will only choose the best portion of the interview.

2.) If you feel uncomfortable with something you said, you can ask to say it again. It's quite all right to do so.

3.) Most importantly, the stories we do rarely run over a minute and thirty seconds. Be concise, say as much as you can "without pausing" in between each word. That will help you better get your point across. Help us to help you.

Now you are ready! I look forward to meeting you in front of the camera.

Michelle White is an anchor-reporter at WBTV NewsChannel 3 in Charlotte

## "The Man Who Sold Hot Dogs"

I'd like to share a story that a very loyal customer recently shared with me, about the man who sold hot dogs.



Fran Farrer,  
Advertising & Marketing Director

There was a man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs. He was hard of hearing, so he had no radio.

He had trouble with his eyes, so he read no newspapers. But he sold good hot dogs.

He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were.

He stood by the side of the road and cried "Buy a hot dog, Mister." People bought.

He increased his meat and roll orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He finally got his son home from college to help him out. But then something happened:

His son said: "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio? There's a big depression coming on. The European situation is terrible. The domestic situation is worse."

That made his father think: "Well, my son's been to college, he reads the papers, and he listens to the radio, and he ought to know."

So the father cut down on his meat and roll orders, took down his advertising signs, and.....

no longer bothered to stand on the highway to sell his good hot dogs. Sales fell fast, almost overnight.

"You're right son," the father said to the boy. "we certainly are in the middle of a great depression. There just isn't any business."

If this sounds like your business.....don't you think its time to give one of our professional account executives a call?

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