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US attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch vows independence if confirmed

By Erica Werner and Eric Tucker

WASHINGTON (AP) - Loretta Lynch promised a fresh relationship with law enforcement and with Congress on Jan. 28y at confirmation hearings to become the first female black U.S. attorney general. Ms. Lynch, a Durham native, is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Lorenzo A. Lynch. "I pledge to all of you and to the American people that I will fulfill my responsibilities with integrity and independence," she said in testimony to the panel led by Republicans to say Attorney General Eric Holder has been too willing to follow President Barack Obama's political agenda. Sen. Charles Grassley, the Republican committee chairman, said as much in the opening moments of the hearing, the Senate's first confirmation proceedings since the Republicans took control this month. He said the department is "deeply politicized. But that's what happens when the attorney general of the United States views himself, in his own words, as the president's wingman." (Continued On Page 3)



U.S. Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch is sworn-in during her confirmation hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday Jan 28 during her confirmation hearing in the Senate Judiciary on Wed., Jan. 28. (Photo by Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call/CQ)



"Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Inc. (DCABP) chair Ralph Hunt (seated, center) signs papers closing the deal on the purchase of the DCABP's newly purchased building at 601 Fayetteville Street. Also pictured are (seated, left to right) DCABP secretary Paulette Morrison-Danner, Atty. John Perry, who handled the closing, and DCABP third vice chair Mignon Schooler. Standing on the left is first vice chair Omar Beasley, while economic development chair I. Jarvis Martin is on the right."

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People Purchases New Home

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Inc. has completed the purchase of a building at 601 Fayetteville St. in the historic Hayti community that will be the organization's new headquarters, according to Committee chair Ralph Hunt. It will be the first building owned by the Committee and its predecessors in their 80 year history.

"We are delighted at this milestone accomplishment", Hunt said. "A lot of people contributed time, effort and money over many years to make this dream a reality." He particularly noted the contributions made to the effort by recent former DCABP chairs W. "Pete" Allison, Jr., Kenneth Spaulding, Dr. Lavonia Allison, Rev. Philip Cousin, and Randal Rogers. Others who have chaired the organization and helped lay the groundwork include C. C. Spaulding, John Wheeler, John S. "Shag" Stewart, J. J. "Bebe" Henderson, John Edwards and Willie Lovett.

The 2,200 square foot building is located in what was formerly a medical office complex adjacent to Hayti Heritage Center, the old St. Joseph's Church building. The site is also across the street from where a branch of Mechanics and Farmers Bank was previously located, and near many of the other well known businesses in the Hayti community.

The building closing on Monday, February 2, took place in the office of Perry, Perry and Perry, P.A., at 321 E. Chapel Hill Street in downtown Durham. Hunt said that in addition to having office space in the building the organization will now be able to start having its general body and subcommittee meetings there.

The purchase of the Fayetteville Street building caps a year of accomplishment and progress for The Durham Committee, Hunt said. He took particular note of the committee's success in helping elect the overwhelming majority of candidates the organization endorsed last year, as well as a very successful and highly acclaimed annual banquet.

The groundwork for The Committee's purchase of the Fayetteville St. building was also laid during 2014. Hunt particularly commended the efforts during the past year of first vice chair Omar Beasley, political committee chair Walter Jackson and vice chair Preston Edwards, civic committee chair Michael Palmer and vice chair Pamela Kendine, and economic development committee chair I. Jarvis Martin in achieving the results he noted.

(Continued OnPage 12)



U. S. Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch, left, shakes hands with Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, right, as ranking member Sen. Pat Leahy looks on. (Photo by Bill Clark/CRoll Call via AP images)

Gubernatorial Candidate Spaulding Promises to Put the People Before Big Dollar Donors

One Voice. One Vote. This is the campaign mission and message the Ken Spaulding for Governor Campaign will use as it continues to ramp up its 2016 gubernatorial campaign.

"We will send a clear and convincing message to both political parties and across this state that when each one of us stands as one united voice of the people, we will defeat the Citizens United case and the obscene influence of multi-million dollar, big money in politics," said Spaulding, the only announced Democratic candidate for governor.

Spaulding noted that his campaign is well positioned for 2015, having spent the last quarter of 2013 with modest fundraising which allowed him to spend 2014 traveling the state so he could listen to the voices of the people, firsthand.

"Our emphasis and effort for 2014 was to put people first ahead of big money," he said. "We reached out to the people and communities throughout North Carolina and they told us they want their voices to be heard. They are tired of blind partisanship and unnecessary divisiveness.

"Residents are determined to take politics back from negative influences and return the power back to the hands of the people," he added, referring to the \$100 million dollar Senate race between Democrat Kay Hagan and Republican Thom Tillis.

Spaulding said he is aware that Roy Cooper, who has yet to an-



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