

Citizens Review Board Holds Inaugural Session

▲ *Board's goal is to restore confidence*

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

If any issue stood out more than the others at the first meeting of the Citizens Police Review Board recently, it was the simple but essential one of why the board exists.

During an explanation of the ordinance that established the board, Assistant City Manager Al Beatty pointed out that the Public Safety Committee had held hearings for only three cases since 1972. The review board will now hear those complaints that Public Safety Committee once heard.

Thomas Lowe, the review board's chairman, asked, with

incredulity in his voice, why was there a review board in the first place? To restore confidence, Beatty answered at last Wednesday's meeting.

The first meeting of the board was an exercise in introductions, an explanation of procedures, and a question-and-answer period on the city ordinance that created the committee.

The 11 members of the board, which the Board of Aldermen created following a close vote last month, went through an introductory exercise at the outset of the meeting in which Ernest Tompkins, the city's director of training and development, solicited personal information from each of them.

Tompkins asked each of them to tell who they were in an attempt to get them to reveal more about

themselves than what was already known.

Tonja C. Adams, the youngest board member and one of four African Americans serving, said "that she has learned to be assertive as opposed to aggressive."

Richard Gray, another African American, said he considers himself a "perfectionist . . . thorough and dependable."

"They say I'm a taskmaster," said Deborah Daniels, another black who is the summer school coordinator for Winston-Salem State University. Someone asked if she was, indeed, a taskmaster, and she smiled and confirmed it with a nod.

Alfred Harvey, who was reared in the Cleveland Avenue Homes public housing community, said he was one of four children of a teenage mother. He sees himself as an

"overachiever," who could be "downright obstinate at times."

Perhaps the most telling exercise involved having each of them compare their role on the board with the parts of a car. The majority, including Thomas H. Lowe, the chairman, identified with the steering wheel.

Beatty, and city attorney Ron Seeber, went over the process involved when a citizen files a complaint against the police department. He also explained the ordinance that the Board of Aldermen passed that created the review board.

"Your role is to serve as an appeals board," Beatty said. And, board members should feel honored because the committee "was created by the highest legislative action taken by the board."

Britt Receives Award

Virginia N. Britt, executive director of the Crisis Control Ministry, Inc. in Winston-Salem, has received a \$12,000 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Sabbatical Award Program Award. The purpose of this award is to provide a time for personal renewal and professional growth of often overworked and underpaid North Carolina nonprofit organizational leaders. Six awards have been made to applicants from across the state.

Britt has directed Crisis Control Ministry for the last 15 years. The organization responds to the emergency survival needs of those in crisis in Forsyth County. Britt is an ordained minister in the Baptist Ministers' Fellowship, the

City-County Task Force on the Homeless, the United Way Community Problem Solving Committee and the Forsyth County Committee to Distribute Federal Emergency Management Act Funds.

Britt will begin her sabbatical in April, 1994 and will return to her organization three or four months later. During her sabbatical, Britt plans to spend time with friends and family, travel, develop a hobby, and read and write sermons. Individuals wanting more information on the sabbatical program should write: Sabbatical Program Coordinator, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, 101 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106-5199.



(l to r) Dee Smith, Joan Cardwell and Velma Friende.

Assembly of National Urban League Held

The Southern Regional Assembly of the National Urban League Inc. was held recently at the Omni Hotel/Conference Center in Charlotte.

The theme was "Building On Our Strengths for 21st Century Pre-

paredness." Pictured (l-r) are: Delores "Dee" Smith, local Urban League president/CEO, who was named runner-up in the Urban League Guild "CEO of-the-year" competition; Joan Cardwell, local guild president, who was elected to

the national reception committee; and Velma Friende, elected to the national nominating committee. The national convention will be held August 1-4 at the Washington, D.C. Conference Center.

Fling at Reynolda House, Arts Museum

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art will sponsor a Family Spring Fling this Saturday from 2-4 p.m. on the front lawn of Reynolda House. Children ages three to ten will especially enjoy the outdoor

activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The art activities will include tissue paper collage, watercolor, marbled butterflies, flower sponge painting, stamp printing,

nature walks, a short film and an opportunity to look at the Reynolda House art collection. For more information and to make reservations, call (919) 725-5325. The fee is \$2 per person.



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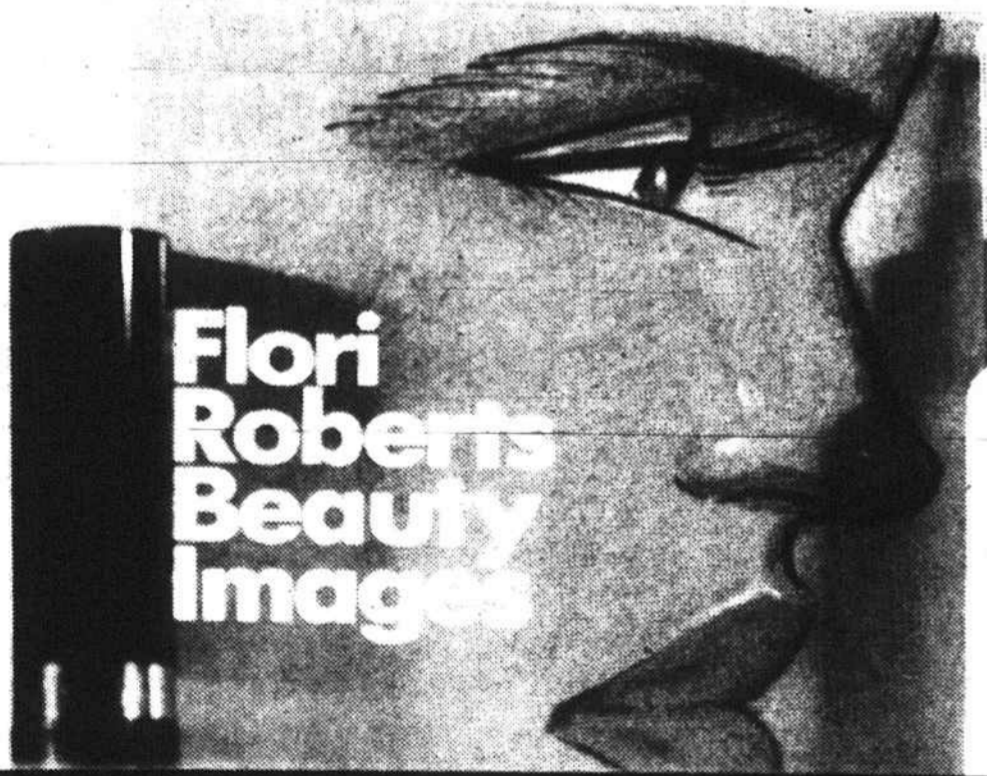
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