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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Police Protection Costs City a Pretty Penny

▲ Department forks over nearly \$500,000 this year to pay overtime to its police officers

By MARK R. MOSS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Police protection is costing the city of Winston-Salem a pretty penny in overtime payments to its police officers. Nearly a half million dollars, to be exact.

City officials say that much of that overtime money is used to pay officers to patrol high-crime areas, while another sizable amount is used to pay those who have to make court appearances on their days off.

Lee Garrity, a budget analyst for the city, said the department spent \$490,000 during the fiscal year that ended this summer. The department is budgeted \$523,000 for overtime pay.

In the previous fiscal year, \$736,000 was budgeted and the department only spent \$332,000. During the 1990 fiscal year, the city allocated \$716,000 and the police department spent \$653,000. The police department's overall budget is \$28.6 million for the current fiscal year.

Garrity attributed the sizable difference in actual spent monies during fiscal years 1990 and 1991 to the fact that the department had 48 openings during 1990. Employees had to work overtime to fill those voids, he said.

Assistant Chief H.R. Tuttle said that of the \$519,500 allotted in overtime to the department during the current fiscal year, \$275,000 goes to the patrol division and the

remainder is for the rest of the department, including administrative personnel.

Tuttle said that only 36 percent, or \$99,300, of the \$275,000 has been spent so far this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

"We've stayed under budget so far," he said.

The amount of money set aside for overtime depends on a number of factors.

"It depends on what kind of situations developed throughout the year," said Sarah Puryear, manager of management information systems for the police department. "Lots of things come into play" when developing an overtime budget, such as what special events will require extra police coverage, and the staffing levels within the

department, she said.

Police Capt. F.A. Holman, who oversees special operations, said that the department's working schedule is set up to preclude any one officer from monopolizing the amount of overtime available.

"To keep it fair and impartial, you have to spread it out," he said. Everyone is given an opportunity to earn extra money, he said.

"It's monitored very heavily to ensure that no one person dominates," he said.

Overtime for high-crime areas are typically during the early evening hours, so an officer would have to be off duty to sign up for the extra hours. Many of the department's personnel, including the patrol division, work shifts that change weekly. A person

working the second shift — from 3 p.m. to midnight — for example, would not work overtime. The next week, however, he might be able to because his shift would change.

Holman said that an officer might average an extra eight hours a month. An officer is paid time-and-a-half for overtime. At \$17 an hour — a figure Holman used as an example — the officer would add \$1,632 to his yearly income. Tuttle said the department has attempted to cut down on "court time" by letting the officer go to court during his shift.

"That's an overtime we have no control over," he said. "The officer is at the mercy of the court," he said.

African-American Children Standing at a Crossroads

▲ Growing number of blacks in foster care

By DAVID L. DILLARD
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Teresa Burke-Brown spends most of her day cuddling 4-month-old "Sam" who she treats like her son.

Sam (not his real name) is one of many children placed in foster homes because of negligence or abuse from his parents.

Brown, 35, feels too many African Americans are talking about problems that affect their community instead of trying to solve the problems.

That's why she decided to become a foster parent. Although she has two sons of her own, she has provided respite care for four children over the past year.

"I always wanted to help in a concrete way, and this is something that I knew I could do," she said. "There is so much that needs to be done."

Jackie Moore, a social worker and liaison with the Forsyth County Foster Parents' Association, said 78 percent of the children in foster homes are black and usually come from an abusive family environment.

The Forsyth County Department of Social Services had custody of over 500 children when foster home services began in 1979. Since then, the number of children



Teresa Burke-Brown plays with her 4-month-old foster son while her biological sons, Hunter and Carson Glenn, look on.

in custody has dropped to 259, but still more than the 81 licensed foster homes can handle.

Linda Cole, program manager for the Forsyth County Foster Home Services, located at 710 Carl Russell Avenue, said the children have been physically or

verbally abused or simply neglected by their parents and the juvenile court system places the kids in foster care.

She said foster care strives to put children back with their parents.

see FOSTER CARE A3

▲ New policy on mixed adoptions

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The state of Florida is planning to change a policy that has inhibited mixed-race adoptions and let black children languish in foster care, even when white families had asked to adopt them.

"We've got kids who are growing old on the adoption waiting list because they are African-American," Jim Towey, head of Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said. "We are really focusing now on what's in the best interest of the child."

Under a policy unveiled earlier this month, race will only be one of several factors used to determine who can adopt a child. The change will end the special weight given to same-race matches under current policy.

The issue has long been controversial. Some blacks say allowing widespread adoptions of black children by whites will confuse children about their cultural roots. Others note the large number of black children awaiting adoption and a shortage of black adoptive families.

see POLICY A3

Competition Ignites Neighborhood Feud

By DAVID L. DILLARD
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Two East Winston business owners, both of whom operate convenience stores across the street from each other, are taking the old competitive spirit to a new level.

Curtis Carpenter, a local businessman, claim black consumers are not being appre-

ciated on his marquee.

Carpenter, 32, an entrepreneur for 12 years, said he pressed charges against Sarsour three weeks ago to stop him from selling counterfeit cassette tapes of popular recording artists. Carpenter also owns the Music Box record store next to his new business.

He said Sarsour was rude to customers

'... the black community ... don't have to take that kind of mark up and mistreatment,' local businessman says.

ciated in his neighborhood, and that's why he decided to open a convenient store. Andrea's One Stop, at 1250 N. Liberty St., opened Nov. 28 — days before Carpenter had filed charges against his main competitor, Mike Sarsour, who runs Minit Mart directly across the street.

"I opened the store to show people in the black community that they don't have to take that kind of mark up and mistreatment," said Carpenter, who is black. "Our sales have been great because (Sarsour) disrespects black people and we offer better service."

On the side of Carpenter's store is a huge sign that says: "We Treat People Right."

Last week, Sarsour, a Palestinian, countered by scribing "Peoples Choice Thanks"

in the past and at one point even threatened some food manufacturers not to service his store.

Sarsour refused to comment on the allegations.

"Tension is still there because we are taking away quite a bit of his sales," Carpenter said. "He's been very nice to people now, but I don't worry about it. He knows he's got competition now because we offer better service."

Carpenter urged African-American consumers to spend more money with black-owned businesses to empower their own community.

"Economic power is the only way to gain power and the more blacks spend with each other, the bigger we get," Carpenter said.



Grammy nominee and R&B recording artist Oleta Adams will perform Friday night at 7 p.m. at First Night Piedmont at the Dixie Classic Fair Grounds. She will perform her mega-hit "Get Here."



This sign is on the side of Andrea's One Stop.

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THIS WEEK IS BLACK HISTORY

On Dec. 27, 1862, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church founded in New Bern, N.C.