

Adams shoulders HAWS transition

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when she began to trace the last six years of her involvements on the HAWS Board. She is the board's chairman of the Personnel Committee, charged to name a successor to Art Mulligan, who is leaving for a similar post in Tampa next month.

"It is a process that I take very seriously," she says. "Fact is, this is my second time to have the privilege of helping to select an executive director for HAWS. It's a daunting, though not an intimidating task. It's simply something we have to do, made more difficult, of course, because Art has set such a very high standard."

"First we will name an interim

director, to work with Art until he leaves, then having specified the criteria for the candidates to apply, we expect to name the new director within the next three to six months," she says.

Marie Roseboro has been rumored as the interim replacement for Mulligan. Adams would not directly confirm the selection of Roseboro; but, she would say, "She is tops on our list as the interim director, but no decision will be made until next week."

Roseboro is a supervisor of commercial loans at Golden State Mutual Insurance and chair of the Board of the East Winston Community Development Corporation. Earlene Parmon, county commissioner, noted "HAWS

could not find a more qualified interim director than Marie." "She is a friend to many who live in public housing. She is widely known in our city, and Marie has over the years been a volunteer to virtually every human service agency in Forsyth County." Roseboro graduated from West Virginia State College.

Adams served as HAWS Board vice chairman in 1991, having been appointed by Mayor Martha Wood in 1990. She was the chair of the board in 1992. She considers the board to be "highly representative of the community." She notes that Bryan McCorkle, who represents youth on the board, like Larry Little, grew up in public housing. McCorkle, according to

Adams, is the person who nominated Roseboro as interim director. Two other members, Cassandra Hayes-Rice and Louise Davis, live in public housing communities. Adams noted that 174 people applied to the position when Art Milligan was chosen. Announcements about the vacant top post "are going out as we speak," she said. And when asked about present staff who may be interested in the permanent post, Adams said she fully expects that June Micheaux will apply. Micheaux is currently assistant director of HAWS.

Adams said she will hold public forums to get input "especially of residents in public housing." She is especially concerned that corporate part-

ners — like RJR — have a say in the selection process. But ultimately, Adams said, she is pleased that the politics in the city "lend to the key role of the African-American community in terms of that happens in public housing."

"Although everybody's taxes pay for public housing," she said, "I am Happy that in our community, the voices of those most affected by decisions involving public housing are heard." "After all," she said, "empowerment of people should begin with those with the most to gain or lose in who gets what, why, and how they get it."

No doubt, D.D. stands for dedication and devotion to people.

Queen of Piedmont Circle

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of the board ought to be public housing residents." Residents, according to Black, "need to have more say-so in the process as to how the mayor appoints people to the Board of Commissioners."

"Martha," she says, referring to the mayor on a first-name basis, "is my friend. She knows that, but, that don't stop me from noticing that I don't see her at HAWS Board meetings until the

annual June meetings, when commissioners are reappointed or whatever."

"I have no earthly idea of the process used by Martha in identifying and appointing HAWS board members," she said.

Queen Black said she would also be more pleased with the democratic process if the board practice "a little more democracy." "We are asked to follow what they say; we really don't have that much to say," she said.

"I feel blessed that we got

Art last time, but, the fact is, they sent his papers to us, along with three other finalists; but, next I heard, Art had the job. But, thank God! I don't know how its going to go this time around."

Black said she hopes that the board will give them a chance to decide who they get. She thinks that Milligan's defining moment with the board began with the dynamics of the discharge of Clifton Graves from the HAWS

staff "a while back." She would not elaborate. "Those who know, know it ain't worth rehashing."

Holding her right index finger to her left hand, she clicks off what she would require in the new director: a degree in political science, or public policy, and business, and "maybe even a little psychology," she says chuckling. She believes that a local person in the new job would come "with too much baggage and bias." "Last thing we need is a person with pet projects," she said. "We've been there and done that. Art changed that."

"We need an executive

director like Art — a people person — and the same applies to whoever replaces Mr. Andrews as head of the Commissioners," she said.

She is frustrated about the fact that resident council presidents do not meet regularly. "I liked it back in the days when we had the Council Four, which was Piedmont Circle, Kimberly Park, Cleveland Avenue Homes, and Happy Hills," she said. "Then, we took our concerns to the board as a unified group." She "grieves almost" because "many of the residents are so passive." "We just seem to have

a lot of young people who don't have a sense of community. They just see this as a place to stay, not as their community," she said.

Black posed for a photo next to a flower trellis. "We need for people to show more pride." She would only smile when asked the secret to having roses blooming in December outside her cozy apartment on the Circle, from which she "ain't going nowhere!"

HAWS has a permanent friend and conscience in the Queen of Piedmont Circle.

Forbes: Rolling hills resource

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We're getting there," she said.

Forbes said she does not worry much about who will replace Milligan, but she also said, "Whoever it is better have as their priority to help us get a resource center for our kids." Forbes

speaks with a sense of urgency for a safe place for those she calls her children to gather after school. She is the mother of four adult children. Thirty three-year old Tyrone, her "baby," lives across the street from her, with his 4-year-old son Tyrone Jr.

Forbes spices every conversation

hold our tutoring session there and to hold our community meetings," she said. "One of the reasons we have such a low turnout to our meetings is because it looks like nothing — like getting our resource center — gets done!"

Forbes said she hopes they don't

about her community with the need for a resource center. "We want to

"just bring in some cold bureaucrat." "Mr. Milligan is a very compassionate and understanding man," she said. Hoping aloud that the new person is as nice as Milligan, she believes that Milligan was going to get the resource center. "He promised us a vacant unit until something could be built," she said. She said they want a place with a television, a VCR and a computer.

Forbes said she wants the mayor to give residents a high say-so in who

gets the new job. "I couldn't wish for nothing more than for all the resident council presidents and officers to get more organized, so we can bring our concerns before the board in unity," she said.

Suzie Forbes dashed into the Triad Blood Center, with one final thought. "We are changing the name of Rolling Hills Apartments to either Welcome Place or Freedom Village," she said.

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