

City website available in 12 different languages

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Information about the city government, its departments, and its services is now available in 12 languages.

Translating the city's web page to a number of different languages is intended to help overcome the barriers of language, culture, and ethnic background, says Wanda Allen-Abraha, the director of human relations. "Human Relations is always committed to equal access of information for all members of its community," she said.

Translations in Spanish, English, Russian, German, Dutch, Russian, Italian, Chinese (two dialects - traditional and simplified), Greek, Japanese, and Korean may be accessed on the website by the flag icons located at the bottom of the screen. For more information, visit the city's website at www.city-ofws.org.



Photo by Paul Collins

Officers take their oath during last week's graduation.

Police

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its contracting, even when white Republican council members have supported such programs.

Robinson's comments about the rookie bothered Chief Linda Davis so much that she issued a statement late last week. Davis said that every rookie officer has meet standards established by the state and the city.

"The trainee to whom Mr. Robinson alludes is a graduate of the University of Maryland, a veteran of the U.S. Army and a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem. He has a class average of 93 and also made the second highest score on the state exam," Davis said in the statement. She called Robinson's firearms allegations "unfounded."

When asked about the council member's comments after last week's graduation, Davis also described Robinson's allegations as a "distortion" and "misinformation". She refused to elaborate any further about Robinson's comments.

Others did have reactions, though.

Mayor Pro Temp Vivian Burke said the rookie should not be singled out because of his age.

"Just because you reach a certain (age), it does not mean it has anything to do with the mind," she said. "If God gives you your mind, you should be able to do anything you want."

Burke praised Davis for not rejecting the rookie

because of his age. City Council member Joycelyn Johnson also said age should not be an issue if a person is qualified for the job.

"We can't discriminate in terms of age if a person is doing a good job," Johnson said.

Burke said the department must also continue to recruit qualified minorities in order for the police force to look like the city.



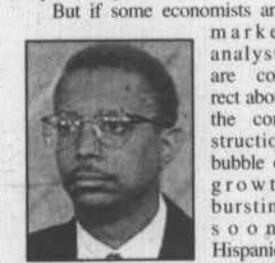
Burke

Burke, who is chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, which oversees activities of the police and fire departments.

The police department has been making a strong push to recruit minority officers for years. Recently, the department launched an advertising campaign aimed at Winston-Salem State University students and graduates. The ads feature pictures of well established black members of the department who graduated from WSSU, including assistant police chiefs Mike McCoy and Patricia Norris. Last week's crop of graduates included several blacks.

Vernon Robinson could not be reached for comment at his home on Tuesday night.

"Blacks basically command more labor market power, whereas Latinos cannot because of their immigration status," Hinojosa said. "Therefore, the wage pressure is kept down on Latinos making them more exploitable, and, therefore, more employable. There is really no subtle way to explain the point."



Spriggs

Hinojosa theorized.

Only 57 percent of Hispanics have a high school education, a fact that reflects the high number of immigrants in the group. Among blacks, 79 percent have high school degrees. And among non-Hispanic whites, 88 percent have high school degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Harry Holzer, a Georgetown University professor and the former chief economist for the Labor Department during the Clinton administration, said other factors are at play in explaining the differences in black and Latino unemployment.

But Latinos benefit from tightly woven job networks, Holzer said. Furthermore, Hispanics

Local couple helping African man make his dreams come true

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Isaac Amonoo is a long way from his home in the Republic of Ghana. His wife and child are still living there while he fulfills his dream of pursuing a formal education in the United States. A chance meeting with Maurice Horsey, a national consultant with YMCA USA, in Ghana a few years ago helped Amonoo secure a visa to travel to the states to chase his dream.

"It has always been my heart's desire to pursue higher education at a college. God has stayed on my side and I was able to perform well on the SAT," said Amonoo.

Although Horsey and Amonoo developed a connection through the YMCA, their relationship has grown since Horsey and his wife, Judy, have been hosting Amonoo in their home while he applies to American universities.

Amonoo's SAT score was high enough to earn him a four year academic scholarship to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where he will pursue a degree in accounting. At one point, Amonoo says he was unsure if he would obtain a scholarship to cover his college expenses. He feared he would have to return home, which he did for a period of time. But, he credits his faith in God and the generosity of so many people for the opportunity to further his education in the states.

He starts his freshmen year at Lincoln next month.

"With determination, prayer and commitment - God is always on your side. That is the key in one's life, because always we have to listen to our inner voice - yourself (and determine) what is it that God wants you to do with yourself," Amonoo said. "(The Horseys) kept me going all the time, encouraging me, telling me to have faith...my only hope was God and true to his word he wrote this victory."

The Horsey family say they will miss Amonoo, who has become like a son to them. Judy Horsey says he "really belongs to Maurice and me. He has come in and fit like our own and I have been totally spoiled."

No stranger to the YMCA, Amonoo worked for the Ghana YMCA for 11 years. In 2001, Amonoo attended the YMCA USA Young Adult Leadership Summit during the YMCAs 150 anniversary. His association with the Y has allowed him to travel this country, visiting different Ys and participating in numerous programs. Amonoo saw snow for first time last year while in this country.

While waiting to start school, Amonoo has spent his time volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Isaac Amonoo, center, poses with Maurice and Judy Horsey.

where the staff has become accustomed to his dedication and willingness to work.

"He's worth his weight in gold. He has worked and worked and he's so enthusiastic, it's contagious...he really understands why we're here and why we do what we do," said Kelly Persons, director of development for Habitat of Forsyth County.

Judy Horsey is the director of volunteer services for Habitat of Forsyth.

Amonoo says he sees the mission of both the YMCA and Habitat for Humanity as one in the same with a shared goal of helping people to become self-sufficient.

"Anything I do, I do it out of my heart. I don't look to money because money has always been a secondary thing

to me but you give of yourself and think of somebody else. I'm willing to do the work of God that has always been a part of my life," said Amonoo.

Once Amonoo earns his degree from Lincoln University, he hopes to return to his home in Ghana and give to his community what he has

learned in this country.

"People on the other side of the world need our help...if I am able to create an environment for me to have a better life for myself and my family, I will also be in position to help others. That has been my whole philosophy in life," Amonoo said.

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