

Sometimes people will ask her if she ran away from something by becoming a nun. She tells them she, isn't running from anything; instead, she is running toward something. / •

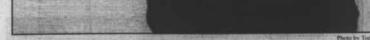
Rivera-Williams, a Winston-Salem native, has traveled a long road to become a nun and to get to where she is today. She remembers being attracted to their lifestyle as early as her grade-school years. She said there was a sense of mystery about nuns. But she didn't think she could be one. She wouldn't see a black nun antil college.

In ninth grade at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, one of the sisters told her she had a calling to religious life. She then went to college and earned a major in social work and a minor in theology.

She went back to Bishop McGuinness after that and taught school there for a couple years. She thought being around the sisters there The school challenged the revocation. Beginning in 2004, the Office of Administrative Hearings heard the case in High Point. Last September, a judge issued a decision that is highly critical of the Office of Charter Schools and the Charter School Advisory Committee, which recommended the revocation of the

Committee, which recommended the revocation of the school's charter to the State Board of Education. The decision clears the way for EWPS officials to go to the State Board of Education next month to begin the process of regaining its charter.

"The court finds that the state's decision to revoke the East Winston Primary School charter was arbitrary and capricious," Administrative Law Judge Sammie Chess Jr.'s decision reads. The decision says the state never produced



servative and slower than others to give up the habit. She and another sister went to a Sisters of Mercy conference one time. They were the only

women to take a vocation, but she said the life has been very rewarding for her. She has met a lot of people through her work.

She said what attracts her is the

discipline and focus of the lifestyle. She also likes to be part of a communi-

ty where everyone has the same focus

on social justice issues and asks simi-

lar questions about life and the nature

The traditional veil and dress of a nun are not required by her regional com-

munity of the Sisters of Mercy of the

Americas. She and another sister were

the last to enter the Sisters of Mercy in

Belmont, N.C., when they required a

Her regional community was con-

One thing that many notice about Rivera-Williams when they see her is that she doesn't wear a nun's habit.

of God.

habit

thought being around the sisters there and being involved in the church would be enough. But she wanted

credible evidence to prove the issues cited in the revocation and that the school was denied

See EWPS on All

Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams is the state's only black nun.

BEING HEARD

Black Leadership Roundtable hears concerns from community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

community forum held by the Black Leadership Roundtable.

Residents brought a hodgepodge of concerns with them last Thursday to a

The Roundtable, a grassroots group with a strong history of addressing issues that affect the black community, has held such forums for the past several years. Many of the concerns that have been addressed at past forums have become initiatives and causes of the Roundtable.



Linda Sutton jots down notes during the forum

There were few empty seats at the forum, held at the Sara Alston Head Start Center. Some of the seats were filled by elected officials and other local decision makers, who came to hear community concerns firsthand. They got an earful.

Kareem Allah complained about the City Council's 2004 decision not to fund CAT-TV, a cable public access channel. CAT-TV – which also had an unsteady board of directors and incidents of financial malfeasance – has been off the air for more than a year.

"This is the first city to eliminate community television," said Allah, who hosted a show on CAT-TV. The Black



See Nun on A9

See Roundtable on A5 Regina Barnes was one of several people who made com

