

Vader?



Chronicle's
One on One



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THE CHRONICLE

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New bus route complaints arise

Winston-Salem also faces projected bus budget deficit

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) faces the challenges of adjusting the new routes to accommodate rider complaints and a projected budget deficit. During a Jan. 17 meeting, City Council members said they'd received praise and many complaints about the new routes. Dan Besse, who heads the council's public works committee, said that small



changes, like moving a bus stop, can be made immediately. Bigger adjustments, like altering or adding routes, could be months away. He said WSTA is currently compiling suggestions on the routes, and will present proposed changes in April to the committee.

WSTA replaced its old bus routes with 30 new ones this year. The new routes are designed for shorter ride times with more

direct ways to get to destinations. Originally, they were drawn up to be revenue neutral, but the routes that went into effect actually cost \$500,000 more a year than the old system.

They were designed after an extensive review of the bus system. Since the new routes often stick to main roads, some communities and destinations that rely on buses found the routes no longer included them. During the more than 20 public sessions, many spoke up about these issues and changes were made so bus service could continue near places like IFB Solutions (formally Industries for the Blind) and Green Street Baptist Church,

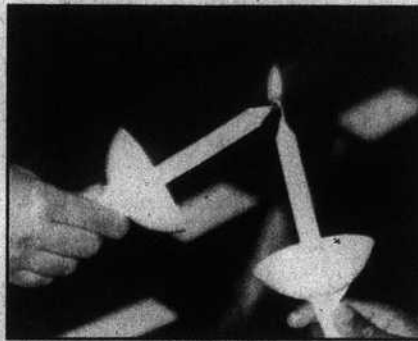
which serves low-income families with its Shalom Project.

However, that was not true for others. During the comment session last week, several people said they lost bus service with the new routes. Rev. Dennis Leach of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church said the routes no longer pass through the area his church is in, which contains Skyline Village Apartments. He said it's a food desert that's not near a grocery store and has many low-income families that depend on bus service.

"I am here tonight ... to ask those in this chamber for your help in restoring bus

See Complaints on A2

Multi-faith prayer vigil highlights new president



Two individuals light a candle during the prayer vigil at Parkway United Church of Christ.



The prayer vigil at Parkway United Church of Christ brought people of all faiths together for a common cause.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

A multi-faith prayer vigil was held this past Sunday in light of the presidential inauguration on Friday. The vigil joined similar vigils organized around the country within the first 100 hours of the inauguration through a coalition of organizations, including Interfaith Power & Light and GreenFaith. The event was held at Parkway United Church of Christ.

The gathering included songs, sacred text, silence and prayers for the new administration. It also included prayers for the courage and persistence of all citizens to continue to work for change in areas of climate change, racial justice, a sustainable energy policy, economic justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQIA rights and the dignity of all faith traditions.

The Rev. C. Anthony Jones, senior pastor of United



Pastor Schaub

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, led the congregation in a rendition of "This Little Light Of Mine." He says events like this highlight the diversity and unity here in the city of Winston-Salem.

"More importantly, it shows that even though we may be of different faiths there are a lot more similarities than differences," Jones said. "When you look at a puzzle, if all the pieces were the same, you would never get the puzzle together, so you have to have diversity to make it work. We no longer need to call it differences. We just need to simply call it diversity."

Toure' Marshall, pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church

See Vigil on A2

Lawmakers warn of fight over city's body cam bill

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem City Council has asked local lawmakers to give authority back to the city to release police body camera footage.

The City Council annually meets with its local legislative delegation to discuss legislation it would like to see in the General Assembly. Due to a meeting and personal conflicts, Republican lawmakers didn't attend the meeting at City Hall on Jan. 20. Democratic state lawmakers Sen. Paul Lowe, Rep. Ed Hanes and Rep. Evelyn Terry did make it.

Last year, the Republican-dominated General Assembly passed a law, now in effect, that prohibits the release of police body and dash cam footage without a



N.C. Rep. Ed Hanes and City Council Member Denise "D.D." Adams talk after a meeting at City Hall last week.

court order. The city requested legislation that would allow for a local officer's footage to be released or reviewed with an opportunity for the district attorney's office and the officer to put a hold on it, if needed.

The state's body camera policy currently puts obstacles in the way of the city releasing footage to ease public tensions, like it did last year after 31-year-old Travis Page died in police custody. But it also prevents what were previously common practices, like letting the police citizens review board see cam footage or letting a parent see

See Lawmakers on A2

HBCU band defies critics, reaps reward through inauguration

Talladega College raises \$670,000 to perform in parade

BY BROOKIE MADISON
HOWARD UNIVERSITY NEWS (HUN) SERVICE

WASHINGTON — At Talladega College, a tiny historically black institution 55 miles east of Birmingham, Alabama, the president, the administration, the band director and the school's 230-member marching band are as giddy as a 9-year-old a week before Christmas.

In this case, however, Santa Claus, in the names of Donald Trump and his supporters and Fox-TV's Bill O'Reilly and his millions of viewers have already come to town and left the cash-strapped school \$670,000 to march in Trump's inauguration.

And now it's time to go shopping.

See Band on A2

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