

Threat?



Heating up

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THE CHRONICLE

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Residents: Why is property depressed?

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

What is the appraisal process used for homes in the area? What can residents do about gerrymandering and the location of voting precincts? How do the decisions in Raleigh impact the families and communities in Winston-Salem?

Those were just a few of the questions raised during a town hall meeting hosted by NC 71st District Rep. Evelyn Terry earlier this week. During the event held at the

Enterprise Center residents let it be known early that they had concerns about the drop in value of their property.

While an appraisal completed to re-evaluate the property values in the county shows an increase of about 6 percent and 70 percent of homes increased in value for the entire county, properties in the east and the south, which is in the 71st District, saw a decline in property tax values.

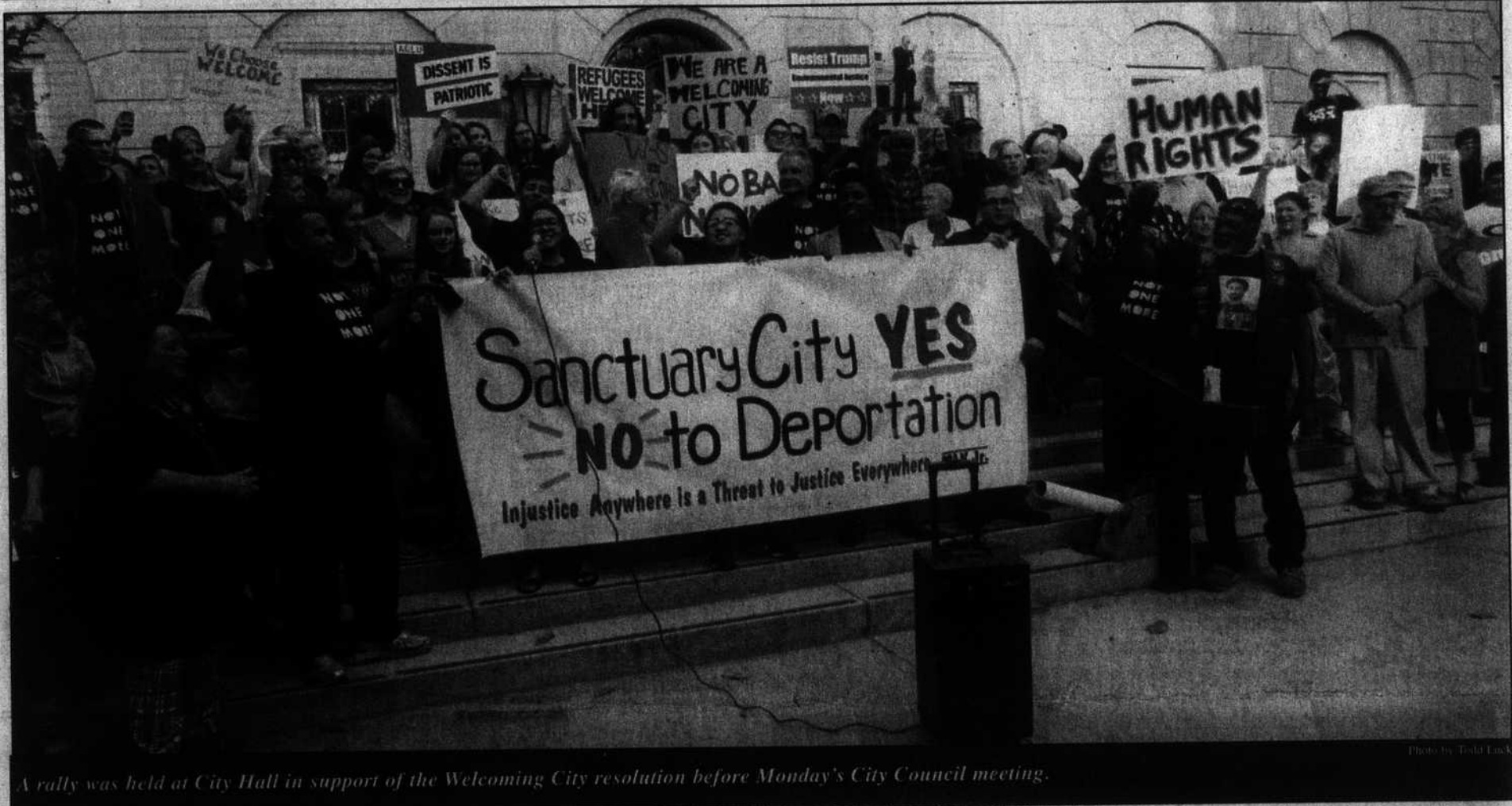
One man said his home depreciated by \$19,000. Longtime city resident Hazel Mack said there needs to be a new process to get the true value of homes in the area. She mentioned that a lot of people in the area have made

improvements to their homes that aren't reflected on the property value.

"We need another method to determine value other than sales," said Mack. "In our community, we're still being affected by the mortgage crisis."

When asked how the property value is assessed, County Tax Assessor John Burgiss said appraisals on all properties in Forsyth County are completed every four years and are based on the sale of similar properties in the immediate area.

See Property on A8



A rally was held at City Hall in support of the Welcoming City resolution before Monday's City Council meeting.

Community support vs. Raleigh intimidation

Welcoming City resolution pulled

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The controversial but highly supported Welcoming City resolution was pulled from consideration during a City Council meeting on Monday, April 17.

The resolution attempts to reassure immigrants and refugees after the Trump administration broadened immigration enforcement and repeatedly attempted to ban travelers and refugees from Muslim majority countries.

Its author, City Council Member Dan Besse, said he is going to try a new approach of getting clergy, community leaders and other elected officials to join council members in endorsing the resolution.

The resolution came about after the council was asked to adopt a

Sanctuary City petition by the Sanctuary City Coalition, which includes groups like the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity. In order to not run afoul of state law and a federal executive order prohibiting sanctuary cities, which usually don't cooperate with federal immigration enforcement, a Welcoming City resolution was created. It says the city "takes pride in serving and protecting" all residents and "opposes any measures which target populations within our diverse community for legal scrutiny or other challenges." It doesn't prohibit the city from cooperating with immigration enforcement and the city attorney found it broke no law.

Despite this, during a meeting in Raleigh on March 29, the City Council was told by its legislative delegation to drop the matter. Council members were told no matter what the resolution said, that some legislators will view it as challenge to the Sanctuary City ban and may retaliate. Over the past few months, sup-

porters of the Welcoming City resolution have been more numerous than opponents at City Council meetings. About 1,000 people have signed the Sanctuary City petition.

Last week, an interfaith event at Temple Emanuel with clergy and supporters drew more than 155 people as they spoke out for the resolution.

"For the Christians among us, we have a different Executive Order - to love our neighbor and even our enemies, to welcome the stranger as Christ among us," said Rev. Kelly Carpenter of Green Street United Methodist Church.

At a rally held just hours before the council meeting, close to 150 supporters gathered outside City Hall. They reiterated the need for the resolution and denounced legislators that oppose it.

"The Welcoming City resolution, there's nothing illegal about it," said Sanctuary City Coalition's Danny Timpona. "It follows state law, it follows federal law. What are they

See Welcoming on A2

WSTA Council considers new tax to cover new bus service

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The City Council is considering adding night and weekend service to 10 bus routes and raising property taxes an additional half cent to cover it.

On Jan. 2, the Winston-Salem Transit Authority replaced its old routes with 30 new ones, including new circulator and crosstown routes.

The biggest route overhaul in WSTA history was designed to reduce ride time and provide more direct routes to destinations, but proved controversial when many complained they lost service.

See Tax on A8



Adams



Larson

HBCU students, alums to lobby for support in D.C.

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

A national gathering of students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), co-organized by an alumnus of Winston-Salem State University, is scheduled for next week in Washington, D.C., targeting lawmakers to do more to help their schools survive.

Scheduled for next Thursday, April 27, the "HBCU Day of Action" is a rally on Capital Hill

geared to "urge the White House, members of Congress, and state and local officials to maintain funding and increase resources for the hundreds of thousands of students enrolled at HBCUs every year," says the event sponsor, The HBCU Collective.

"Alumni and students play an integral role in preserving and growing our HBCUs," Winston-Salem State University 2008 alumnus Robert Stephens, a co-leader of the Collective, told The

Root.com. "We're here to make sure our elected officials see and feel the importance of HBCUs - and we're here to hold them accountable for their support."

Stephens was WSSU student body president for 2007-08 and has served as a board member for the WSSU Young Alumni Council.

Joining the other over 100 HBCUs from across the nation that will be sending student representa-

See HBCU on A8

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