



IN HONOR OF  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING**

See Opinion page on A6

See Sports on page B1

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 45, Number 20

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 24, 2019

## 'What are you willing to sacrifice?'

Dr. Bellamy delivers MLK Jr. prayer breakfast address, Rev. Covington urges community to put action to words

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

What are you willing to sacrifice?

That was the question Dr. Wes Bellamy raised at the Benton Convention Center during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 21.

"I want you to understand that we are in very serious times. We are not in a time in which we can play around, mince our words, or pretend as if things will be okay if we keep on keeping on with a smile on our faces, things are going to work out. It's not going to do so if we do not work," Bellamy continued.

"...So I hope that we are here with our lunch pails packed and hard hats on because it is time to work not play."

A native of Atlanta, Ga., a graduate of South Carolina State University, and Virginia State University, where he earned his masters and doctorate, those who know Dr. Bellamy well describe him as an educator who works to ensure that young people have the knowledge to move forward. As the youngest person ever elected to the Charlottesville, Va. City Council, Bellamy's primary focus has been improving the lives of those who lack resources through various programs and initiatives. He is also credited for helping lead the City of Charlottesville through the deadly race riots in 2017.

The riots broke out on August 11, 2017, when white nationalists opposed to the removal of a Confederate statue clashed with counter-protestors.

Bellamy said while many people thought the Charlottesville Riots was an isolated incident, there are many other places throughout the country just like Charlottesville where individuals are willing to take extreme measures to stop change.

As he stood before the diverse crowd of nearly 1,000 people from all walks of life during the annual King Day celebration hosted by The Chronicle and the



Photos by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity (MCWSV), Bellamy challenged everyone to make the necessary sacrifices to fight for equity in our communities and ensure Dr. King's legacy and message continues.

He said on that August day, David Duke and members of the Ku Klux Klan showed up with guns, machetes and knives to fight people holding posters. He said on that day, hundreds of counter-protestors decided to make a sacrifice and face the white nationalists without fear.

"... Because what they believed was theirs, their city was changing, they literally drove a vehicle through a group of peaceful protestors and killed someone," he continued. "Rest in Power to sister Heather Heyer. Sacrifice. She gave her life while walking and standing up for what's right. What will

you give? "That is only a question that you can answer."

After issuing his challenge, Bellamy said while the fight to bring about change on a grand scale is

change in our own lives and communities. He said we all have a different role to play in this movement.

He said, "... But before you can play any role, you're going to have to

us are willing to sacrifice our names in the paper or being acknowledged on Facebook or Twitter or Instagram to do the real work behind the scenes. I wonder what we are will-

President of the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, urged the community to put Bellamy's words into action. She said Bellamy's address goes hand in hand with the Ministers' Conference theme for the year, "Why We Can't Wait."

"... Why we can't wait is because never is not an option. Why we can't wait is because we need to keep the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive. Why we can't wait is because we need to keep our dream alive," continued Covington. "... Why we can't wait is we need to believe as individuals and collaboratively that we are catalyst for change, even in this day.

"... As Fannie Lou Hamer said, we need to take our power back. Sick and tired of being sick and tired is not enough and so we do not wait because never is not an option."



Photos by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

Dr. Wes Bellamy, city councilman in Charlottesville, VA, was the keynote speaker at the prayer breakfast on Jan. 21.

important, it is equally important that we make sacrifices to bring about

determine and define what you are willing to sacrifice. "... I wonder if some of

ing to sacrifice." Following his address, Pastor Tembila Covington,

043-002-\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 275  
WTTXS-E-RES & SERIALS MGMT  
DAVIS LIBRARY CB # 3938  
PO BOX 8890  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-8890 90

We Rent U-Haul Trucks!

MOVE IN SPECIAL  
\$25 for first month

Professional self-storage.

ASSURED STORAGE  
of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000  
www.assuredstoragews.com  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm  
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm  
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

