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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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Rev. Rudolph Seth  
...Incoming SCLC president

## SCLC Installs Officers; Holds Memorial Service

By Lorretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

A new president for the local chapter of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, along with other officers will be installed on Sunday, April 5 as the 40 year old organization sponsors

a memorial service to the Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

The installation and memorial service will take place at Little Rock AME Zion Church at 4 p.m.

Rev. Rudolph Seth, an associate pastor of Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church will replace outgoing president, Dr. James Palmer, who after serving three terms as the local SCLC president will be running for the president on the state level.

While new to the office of president, Rev. Seth is no stranger to SCLC. He has been involved with the local organization since its formation in 1983, having previously served on the board of directors and on the steering committee of the National convention.

As president, Rev. Seth is prepared to face the challenges ahead. "In the next year, I would like to see SCLC develop its public image and to put itself in a position to address issues that relate to fair and equitable treatment to black and poor people. We have more work to do in the areas of employment, housing, economic development and education. A lot of these issues have been cast aside by the Reagan administration. Programs like Affirmative

Action have been diluted. Those of us who have gotten good positions have forgotten where we've come from and have forgotten that the Civil Rights movement and the Voting Rights Act were the reasons why we have the positions we have. We have been lulled to sleep and have become complacent. If we (human race) are all to participate in the American dream, we must not forget those less fortunate."

Other areas Rev. Seth wants to tap into include working more closely with the NAACP and finding Christian-based solutions to the problems that exist.

Rev. Seth, an active member at Greater Mt. Sinai is a bible study teacher, a member of the board of directors of the Noah's Ark Ministry and the TLC Counseling Service, a member of the Black Political Caucus is active in Storehouse, a group similar to the 700

Club. He is married to Ellen and they are the parents of three children.

Speaking at the memorial and installation service on Sunday will be Dr. George Cook Jr., pastor of Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. He has also been named SCLC's "Man of the Year." His message will be based on SCLC's national theme, "Putting the Elimination of Poverty on the National Agenda." He will also install the following officers: Veima Leaks, first vice president; Andrea Watkins, second vice president; Rev. William White, third vice president; Evelyn Arant, fourth vice president; Clara Williams, secretary; Pearl Robinson, assistant secretary; Marie Grier, treasurer; Lewis Colman, parliamentarian, and Carrie Graves, historian.

Churches and choirs from across the city, as well as elected officials have been invited to attend the program. The city's sanitation workers will be special guests, symbolic of the group Dr. King gave his life for and in consideration of the sanitation workers' present negotiations with the city. Rev. E. Randle Osborne, executive director of Chapters & Affiliate will also be in attendance.

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Look For The Charlotte Post's Wedding & Vacation Special

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, April 2, 1987

## Westside Citizens, Fed-Up Living With City's Garbage

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Several black citizens of Charlotte's Westside were shocked and angered by a particular news item reported in the Charlotte Observer last May. The report was a conspicuous reminder of the racially discriminatory practices which still exist in Southern cities.

The article stated the County Commissioners of Charlotte-Mecklenburg had voted on and approved, in closed session, that the city's new Waste Transfer Station would be situated in the middle of a densely populated, predominantly black residential area in West Charlotte.

Upon reading this news, the black Westside citizens, many of whom are long-time homeowners in the area, had the common thought: "No, not again. Not another garbage dump on the Westside."

They are all fed-up with living with the city's garbage.

Leroy "Pop" Miller still recalls how the foul odor of the city's garbage permeated the black neighborhood where he bought his first home.

He purchased his home on Moretz Ave. off Statesville Ave. in 1951. "At that time blacks were allowed to purchase homes only in certain areas," Miller tells.

Charlotte, similar to most Southern cities, had residential racial segregation for decades. In Charlotte, black citizens were restricted in their living patterns to areas west and north of the city and were prevented from residing outside their designated communities; white citizens preferred to live in the east and south.

As part of their racially discriminatory policy, the city-county government established a policy and practice of allocating tracts of land in the black community for the location of offensive and noxious land uses, freeing the white community from any such land burdens.

For example, over the years, city-county government has placed many of its city-wide municipal services in black communities, including two landfills, a wastewater treatment plant, a bus shelter, a municipal storage area, and a major waterworks.

In 1961, Miller's home on Moretz Ave. was less than a mile from two waste disposal sites. One, located in the area where Double Oaks Public Housing is now built, was closed and used as a landfill. The other, located off Statesville Ave. on Northerly Rd., was being utilized.

"You could smell it for miles around," Miller relates.

The Statesville Ave. garbage dump closed during the 1960's and Double Oaks dump closed in the 40's according to Miller. But vestiges of the land violation remain today and effect the black residents of this area.

At Double Oaks, where the city has built low-income housing on a landfill, the ground beneath these family dwellings is sinking, Miller revealed at the location of Double Oaks housing project.

"The land is sinking 12 to 16 inches in some places," Miller said, pointing to areas of receding earth. "That's because Double Oaks sits on a garbage dump."



J.C. Scoggins (l) and Leroy "Pop" Miller (r), members of the Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump, stand on the proposed site for the city's new Waste Transfer Station, located on Hwy. 16 and LaSalle St., Miller points to the University Park neighborhood, describing the close proximity of the Waste Station to this black residential area.

Photo by Calvin Ferguson

Hwy. 16 and LaSalle St., Miller points to the University Park neighborhood, describing the close proximity of the Waste Station to this black residential area.

a legal complaint against the County Commission to have the County adjoined from building on the site.

Evans explained briefly, "It is a racial discrimination claim, citing that the Westside of predominantly black residents has borne the burden of these types of facilities more than any other section of town."



Evans has cited in the complaint, "Specifically, (the Commissioners or Charlotte's city-county government) have a pattern and practice of allocating offensive land uses on the basis of race."

The complaint also points out, "(Black Westside residents) have been and continue to be discriminated against because of their race in ways which deprive them of the right to be free from governmentally imposed negative land uses, which further deprive them of land use opportunities equal to that enjoyed by white residents of this City."

This disparate treatment on the basis of race is in violation of black Westside residents' rights under the Fifth Amendment, Thirteenth Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, concluded Evans.

In the fight with the County Commissioners the Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump has to pay mounting legal fees. They been holding community events to raise funds.

But the Coalition will not give up. They feel it is a just fight. They're fighting for their neighborhoods and against continued racial discrimination. As Coalition member, Eleanor Washington remarks, "They're working on building schools in South and Southeast Charlotte," continues Washington. "But they have a history of putting anything that is negative in the black communities."

When meetings with the County Commissioner proved fruitless--the Commissioners remained adamant about putting the Waste Station in the black community--the Westside Coalition secured the services of Attorney Yvonne Evans, who has filed