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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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## Westside Residents Fight Waste Station To Bitter End

**By Jalyne Strong  
Post Managing Editor**

There was one thing that infuriated black westside residents, last year, more than the fact the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Commissioners had voted on and approved placing a Waste Transfer Station in the midst of their residential community. It was the fact that the only black Commissioner, Robert Walton, had not warned the community of the County's proposal, that he also voted to place the station in a black community and initially displayed disinterest in the westside residents' protest of the Commissioners' decision.

Recalling the first meeting the westside citizens summoned Walton to, following the news of the Waste Transfer Station appearing in the daily newspaper, westside resident James Fox describes. "It was a shocker to the community that (the Commissioners) had decided to put the station over here. But when we called Walton to a meeting to discuss it, he didn't want to listen. He came to the meeting saying he had a Budget meeting to attend and couldn't stay. But we told him, 'You're going to stay and hear us out!'"

"He was very rude and essentially said he was not going to change a thing about the Commissioners' decision. To this, a woman said, 'If that's how you feel then I can't vote for you anymore.' Walton told her, 'I don't need your vote.' It was a very upsetting meeting with Walton," remembers Fox.



Robert Walton



Joe Bradshaw

zens, the pressure was put on him and he changed his vote."

Walton now explains, "Originally I voted for the (Waste Transfer Station) site. Subsequently, I voted against it. I'm against it."

His first vote was a hurried decision based upon the recommendation of the consultants utilized by the Commissioners, says Walton. "But after rethinking and further investigation, I've come to the conclusion that the proposed location is not the best site for the Waste Transfer Station," he relates.

"I do support the fact that the facility should not be built on this particular site. The fact that it will have a negative impact on the neighborhood is a real issue."

Walton now sides with the coalition saying the placement of the Waste Station on the westside could possibly depreciate land values in the area and he also sees a "real danger" in having 250 garbage trucks coming through neighborhood streets daily.

Walton further claims he sees "some legitimacy" to the Westside Coalition claim of racial discrimination in the issue concerning the Waste Station.

"I've tried to persuade the Commissioners to reverse their decision," Walton reveals. "I've had no luck."

The County's stance on the location of the Waste Transfer Station is best expressed by Assistant County Manager Joe Bradshaw, who says, "It's the best site I could find."

Bradshaw, supervisor of the County department that located the Waste Station, admits, "I approved the site."

"We followed the land use plan for Mecklenburg County and the key issue was that this location is properly zoned for the facility."

In reference to the westside citizens' protest and legal action against the proposed site, Bradshaw concedes, "It's a good sign to see neighborhoods get organized and express an opinion in a public hearing or in court. But I don't believe the lawsuit will win."

"The contention that the site was picked because it is in a black neighborhood is inaccurate," says Bradshaw, who believes there is no basis for the coalition's claim of discrimination.

The Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump, however, is not wavering in its claim. And as the group rallies and holds community events to raise funds to meet its legal fees, more black citizens and black organizations are becoming involved in the group's fight with the County.

Fox relates that the Charlotte Black Political Caucus is committed to the cause and its president, Robert Davis, has written a letter to County Commissioner Carla DuPuy. The Charlotte Chapter NAACP has given \$100 and pledged its support. The Progressive Church of God has donated \$200 and Friendship Baptist Church has given \$100 to the cause. Furthermore, Rev. Newberry of Memorial Presbyterian Church has allowed the coalition to hold meetings in the church and each week Memorial Presbyterian contributes monetarily to the struggle.

The mounting opposition has caused the County to react after almost a year of silence. On March 27, Cary Saul, deputy director of engineering, solid waste, sent Heard a letter requesting a meeting on April 15, 6 p.m., at First Baptist Church-West.

The letter reads in part, "The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss your concerns regarding the proposed Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling Station..." The letter further asks that Heard attend this meeting alone.

"This is just a pitch to try to get support," says Heard about the letter. "But that's impossible."

"Also, they're afraid to appear before an audience of citizens because that will expose what the County is trying to do to the black community. But there will be an audience there!" Heard states.

"(The Commissioners) will never hear the end of this if they place the Waste Station in the black community," Heard emphasized. "Even if it takes marching in the street. We're furious and will fight to the bitter end!"



Julius Chambers (right), director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., recently accepted a \$15,000 contribution for the fund's general operating expenses from Marshall B. Bass, senior vice president of RJR Nabisco. The company also made a special \$11,000 donation in support of the fund's special activities.

### NAACP Legal Defense Fund Receives \$26,000

Winston-Salem, NC - RJR Nabisco, Inc. recently contributed \$26,000 to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

The corporate gift included a special \$11,000 donation to the fund, primarily to help defray the cost of students' attendance at the fund's annual Civil Rights Institute in New York City in May. In addition, RJR Nabisco made its annual \$15,000 contribution to the fund's general operations budget.

"We share the goals of the NAACP Legal Defense and Edu-

ational Fund as it continues to lead the fight in the courtroom against prejudice and discrimination based in race and sex," says M. B. Bass, senior vice president of RJR Nabisco. "The fund has an unparalleled record in prevailing on issues at all levels of the judicial system, which will affect the history of this country and the lives of many generations of Americans."

RJR Nabisco is the parent company of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Nabisco Brands, Inc., and Del Monte Corporation.

### Jackson At The Crossroads

Special To The Post  
By Vernon Robinson

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is expected to formally announce his candidacy for the 1988 Democratic Presidential Nomination in less than 30 days. Jackson set up his exploratory committee headquarters in Washington and field office in Iowa. As the Jackson team ponders what lies ahead, they will consider several opportunities and challenges. Among these are Southern Regional primary and the farm vote.

The Southern Regional Primary scheduled for March 8, 1988 was conceived as a vehicle for southern voters to make an early and powerful impact on the presidential primary process. Specifically, the Democratic leadership hoped to force the party into selecting a more moderate and hence a more electable candidate.

If the recent Atlanta Constitution poll of presidential preference is any indicator, it appears that not only will the "mega" Tuesday outcome not result in a Sam Nunn as the party's nominee, but Jackson's prospects have been strengthened.

Jackson won 30 congressional districts in the South during 1984, half his total victories. The poll results show him running second to Gary Hart (35% to 21%) across the South, leading Hart in Mississippi (37% to 25%) and Alabama (33% to 25%). While this poll measures primarily name recognition, Jackson will be a major player if three or more strong white candidates are left in the race come March 8.

Much has been said about the primary rules whereby Jackson won a fraction of the delegates available compared to his primary vote. The Fairness Commission, set up after the 1984 race by the Democratic Party to investigate Jackson's claims, has lowered the percentage of vote that a candidate must have to qualify for delegates to 15%. Jackson supporters in North Carolina faced the high-



Jesse Jackson

est thresholds in the country in 1984 requiring a candidate to get 30% of the vote before she or he could get a single delegate. This time the thresholds may work to Jackson's advantage by denying the Joe Bidens in the race delegates that will go to Jackson and Hart.

The press in the 1984 race continually criticized Jackson's Rainbow Coalition for being only one color; black. Jackson's hopes in 1988 ride in large part in his ability to extend his power base outside of the black community. He has made a good deal of progress with white, rural farmers who have been ignored by other candidates for President.

How far he has come can be demonstrated by two short stories: While living in Washington, I attended a Rainbow Coalition reception. When I arrived at the event, I thought I was in the wrong place because all of the people waiting there were white farmers from the South and Midwest complete with coveralls and John Deere tractor caps. More recently, Jackson spoke to over 800 farm family members in the cold during the Superbowl. If farmers vote their interests and not along color lines, the pundits who cannot find a Rainbow Coalition may be run-over by tractor lines.

**The Answers  
We Have Received  
Have Been Very  
Disappointing.**  
— Miller

Westside resident Leroy "Pop" Miller verifies Fox's description of how the meeting with Walton went. He says, "We asked him why did he allow the decision to happen? Why did (the Commissioners) decide to place this garbage station in the black community?"

"We were not satisfied with the answers we received," tells Miller.

Nonetheless, says Miller, the disappointing meeting produced a positive result. It precipitated the formation of the Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump.

The Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump is a grassroots organization of black westside residents who oppose placement of the Waste Transfer Station on Belhaven Blvd. and LaSalle St., a location in the middle of several predominantly black neighborhoods. Miller and Louise Sellers are co-chairpersons of the coalition.

Ultimately, the group was given no alternative but to bring legal



"Pop" Miller Isaac Heard

action against the County Commissioners and currently the Westside Coalition has an injunction halting the construction of the Waste Transfer Station and a pending discrimination suit against the County Commissioners.

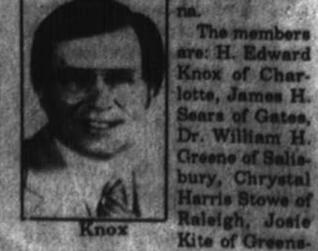
While they await the outcome of the litigation, coalition members echo the sentiments expressed by Miller, who says, "We've done some good. At least we've stopped them for now."

Moreover, according to coalition member and McCrory Heights Neighborhood Organization President Isaac Heard Sr., the organization has also influenced Commissioner Walton to change his stance on the issue of the Waste Station location. Walton, who admits he voted for the site, now says he is against it.

About that change, Heard claims, "(Walton) saw what was happening...when the uproar came from the black westside citi-

### Task Force On Racial Intimidation

Raleigh - Governor Jim Martin recently announced the membership of the Governor's Task Force on Racial, Religious, and Ethnic Violence and Intimidation, which will initiate a statewide effort to combat hate group discrimination in North Carolina.



Knox

The members are: H. Edward Knox of Charlotte, James H. Sears of Gates, Dr. William H. Greene of Salisbury, Chrystal Harris Stowe of Raleigh, Josie Kite of Greensboro, Kelly M. Alexander Jr. of Charlotte, Sheriff Buck Lyda of Fairview, Maurice A. Weinstein of Charlotte, Carolyn Q. Coleman of Greensboro, and Jean Benoy of Raleigh. All will serve on the Task

Force until December 31, 1988. Eddie Knox will serve as chairman.

"I am pleased that such a distinguished group of individuals has agreed to serve our state on this Task Force," Governor Martin said. "This group will bring a systematic approach to addressing the problems posed by racial, religious, and ethnic violence and intimidation in our state."

Knox, 50, is an attorney with Wardlaw, Knox, Knox & Freeman in Charlotte. A former mayor of Charlotte, Knox has long been involved in human relations issues.

Sears, 49, chairman of the First Congressional District Black Caucus, is production controller at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Greene, 43, is president of Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary.

Stowe, 30, is director of public information with the North Caroli-



Alexander

na Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Alexander, 38, is a funeral director at Alexander Funeral Home and president of the North Carolina NAACP, National Vice President of the NAACP, and member of the National Board of Directors

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