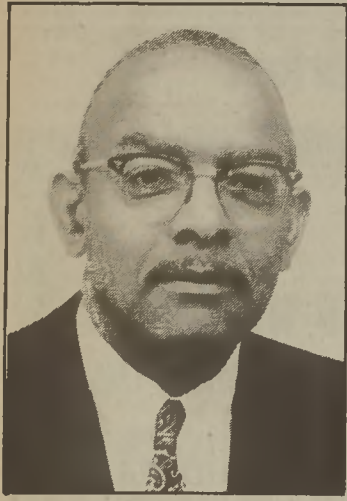
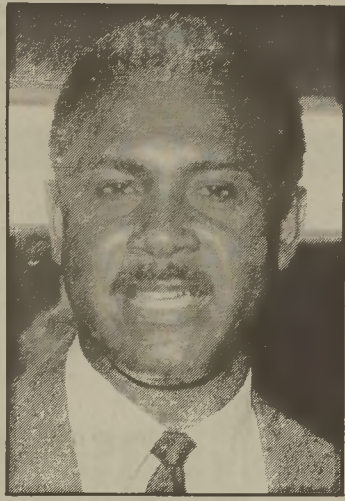


BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Alexander



Gantt



Johnson



Berry

The History Of Charlotte's Black Politics

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Black politics in Charlotte has undergone many changes in the second half of this century, with district representation ensuring non-whites better representation while black candidates with wide-ranging appeal became a political force.

Joseph Fraylon was the first black candidate to make a run for political office in the modern era, but gathered only 263 votes in his 1942 N.C. House race. He later waged an unsuccessful campaign for Charlotte city council seven years later.

The Alexander family staged the first breakthroughs, with brothers Kelly and Fred leading the way. Kelly Alexander was the first to test the political waters, winning the Democratic nomination for city council in 1951 with 3,661 votes.

He lost in the November general election, although he gathered 4,153 votes. One of the pillars of the N.C. NAACP, Kelly Alexander served as state president of the organization.

Fred Alexander was the first black elected to city council, in 1965. He served five terms on council before making history as the first Mecklenburg black to win a seat to the N.C. Senate in 1974. Fred Alexander later served two more two-year terms.

Betty Miller was the first black woman elected to office when she became a Mecklenburg County magistrate in 1966.

Phil Berry was the first to win a seat on the county board of education in June 1972, but Coleman Kerry, who first ran in 1967, was appointed prior to Berry's win.

Bob Walton, the lone black or

Democrat on today's seven-member board of county commissioners, was the first to win a seat there, in 1976. The six-term incumbent was also involved in the first seriously contested district race last year when he beat Nasif Majeed for the Democratic nomination in District 2.

Harvey Gantt made waves when he was elected mayor of the largest city in the Carolinas

in 1983. He was elected to a second term in 1985.

Clifton Johnson was elected to a District Court Judgeship in 1972 in an at-large contest, the first of several blacks to win judicial seats.

Walter Nivens was the first black named to the Mecklenburg Board of Elections and Bob Davis, the first black elected chairman of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party, now

serves as chairman of the Charlotte Black Political Caucus.

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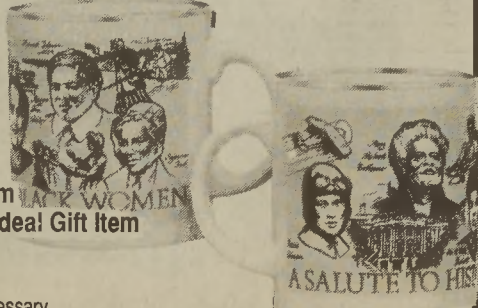
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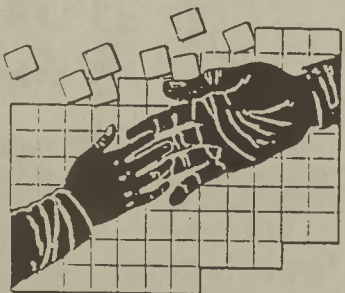
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CAROLINAS MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, INC.

The Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Councils, Inc. (CMSDC) is a non-profit organization whose members are major corporations, universities, financial institutions, and state and local agencies. The primary function of the Council is to foster the development of business relationships between members and minority-owned businesses.

The Council introduces its membership to minority suppliers by sponsoring outreach programs and activities designed to support corporate minority procurement policies and bring corporations and minority vendors together.

The CMSDC is part of a network of regional minority purchasing councils across the country that are affiliated with the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC).

FUNCTIONS OF THE CMSDC

- Assist member corporations in the development and/or improvement of their minority vendor programs
- Identify minority suppliers in the Carolinas
- Recognize buyers for their contribution to their companies' minority purchasing program
- Publish Buyers' Guide directory of minority-owned businesses in the Carolinas
- Publish Vendors' Guide directory of corporate buyers
- Provide vendor referrals
- Sponsor Annual Trade Fair
- Conduct buyer seminars
- Conduct sales training programs for minority business representatives
- Conduct ongoing Vendor Certification Programs
- Conduct other programs and activities designed to bring minority vendors and corporate purchasing personnel together
- Assist vendors in doing business with major corporations outside the Carolinas

For Further Information Contact:

MALCOLM R. GRAHAM

Executive Director
(704)372-8731