

**THE BLACK LENS SPOKANE**  
NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

**MAYORAL CANDIDATES RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE BLACK LENS**

**DAVID CONDON**

**SHAR LICHTY**

**1) What prompted you to run for Mayor?**

I am a third-generation Spokaneite, and I have always wanted to contribute to our hometown. I have been honored to serve as Mayor, working with a non-partisan team of professionals to fix many of Spokane's long-term problems. We lowered water rates, improved police performance and accountability, reduced crime and the use of force, and invested millions in better parks and roads. Now I'm running for office to continue the work this team has accomplished and to ensure that everyone in our community, including those who may be most vulnerable right now, will have a great future in Spokane.



**2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for Mayor of Spokane?**

I think I've assembled a great team that is doing good work for the citizens of Spokane every day. It's been 40 years since we had a two-term mayor. Our city could use the stability of letting this professional, nonpartisan staff continue their good work. I first ran for mayor four years ago, because as an Army veteran, and former Congressional staffer, I had learned a great deal about how government works, and how to get results from these big bureaucracies. I like to think that being a parent and a good spouse are two good qualifications for this job – as we need to build a Spokane that is going to be a city we're proud of for our children and grandchildren.

*Continued on Page 18*

**1) What prompted you to run for Mayor?**

As a community leader who has worked on creating positive policy change I have been disappointed with the lack of leadership, transparency, and community engagement from the current administration. This combined with the current mayor's obstruction to independent investigative authority for the Office of Police Ombudsman, an issue I have worked on for six years and am personally invested in, led to my decision to run for Mayor. The City of Spokane deserves true leadership that represents all of its residents and provides transparency and accountability at all levels of city government. I will be that Mayor.

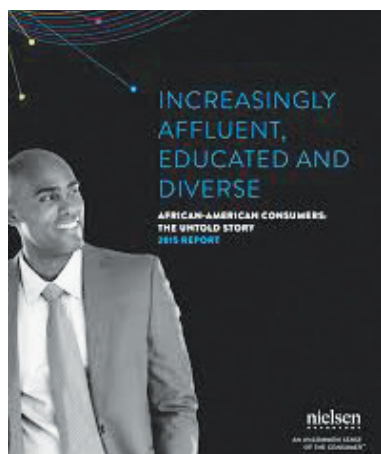


**2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for Mayor of Spokane?**

I have experience running a contracts department of a municipal water district along with business management experience which provide me with the skills to lead our city government. I have worked for the past six years as a community organizer, working with everyday people to impact policy change on issues they are effected by through engaging with local, state, and federal lawmakers. This experience has not only provided me with a deep understanding of policy and government but also the acknowledgement of the importance to bring all of the stakeholder voices to the table to work toward the best possible outcome. I have worked with individuals from all political and faith backgrounds on controversial issues such as the death penalty and marriage equality.

*Continued on Page 18*

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS GROWTH AND AFFLUENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS**



*Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Target Market News*

(TriceEdneyWire.com) Nielsen recently released "Increasingly Affluent, Educated and Diverse: African-American Consumers--The Untold Story," at a press conference during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s 45th Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

This new report, the fifth in Nielsen's Diverse Intelligence Series, contains insights about affluent Black consumers with annual

household incomes of \$75,000 and higher.

It upends outdated stereotypes about African-Americans, from education and income to media consumption and social engagement. It explores the evolution of upper-income Black Americans as the population continues to grow and change rapidly.

"The size and influence of affluent African-Americans is growing faster than that of non-Hispanic Whites across all income segments, and the impact is being

felt across industries," said Cheryl Pearson-McNeil, Senior Vice President, U.S. Strategic Community Alliances and Consumer Engagement, Nielsen.

"These larger incomes are attributed to a number of factors including youthfulness, immigration, historic educational attainment and constant, relevant dialogue across various social media channels that have an impact on African-Americans' decisions as brand loyalists and ambassadors. Savvy marketers are taking notice."

At 45.7 million strong\*, the nation's Black population grew at 17.7% from 2000 to 2014 -- 35% faster than the total population and double the 8.2% growth rate of the White population.

*For more detail or to download Increasingly "Affluent, Educated and Diverse: African-American Consumers -- the Untold Story," visit <http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/reports.html>.*

\*Source: U.S.Census, American Community Survey, 2014. Race alone or in combination.

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# ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

## My Lesson On Politics

*"In our so-called democracy we are accustomed to giving the majority what they want rather than educating them to understand what is best for them."*

-Carter G. Woodson

I got my first taste of American politics back in 1972, when I was an idealistic sixth grader. My dad was stationed at Schofield Barracks Army Base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii and my brother and I had attended Hale Kula Elementary School. There was a big national election that year featuring George McGovern vs Richard Nixon running for President of the United States, and my Social Studies teacher decided that it would be an exciting experience for his class to bring the reality of the election onto our school campus and give us a chance to experience a political campaign first hand. So, he gave us the assignment of campaigning for the candidate of our choice, complete with developing campaign materials and writing a persuasive campaign speech. It was to culminate with an all school vote.

I had a blast with the assignment. I made brightly colored posters with catchy slogans on them and construction paper buttons. I dove into the speech writing process, doing my research, studying the issues, and then carefully and clearly laying out my rationale for enthusiastically supporting George McGovern for President. As it turns out, our school was a pretty accurate reflection of the rest of the United States and I was the only student that felt that way.

Speech after speech given by my classmates on campaign day supported Nixon, and my lone McGovern speech was met with reactions that ranged from silent glares to outright anger and hostility. Whether or not it was the intention of my teacher, for me, this was the moment when the real education about politics started in earnest.

Over the days that followed, in the shadow of the real world Presidential politics that were playing out across the country, I was ostracized by my classmates for my "radical" views and my campaign posters were ripped down off of the walls. If you know me, I'm sure it comes as no surprise that I responded by creating more posters and more buttons, and by holding a one person campaign rally for McGovern, parading around the school all by myself with a sign that I still remember. It read, "Red, White and Blue, McGovern is the Man For You."

All of my efforts, despite their sincerity, didn't make much of an impact at Hale Kula, and when we held our election, McGovern lost in a landslide, just like he did in the national election. I left the experience pretty disheartened. Not so much because McGovern lost, even though that was a disappointment. What I didn't understand as a sixth grader, and what I still don't understand as a fifty year old, is why the political process in this country seems to turn otherwise good hearted people into mortal enemies.

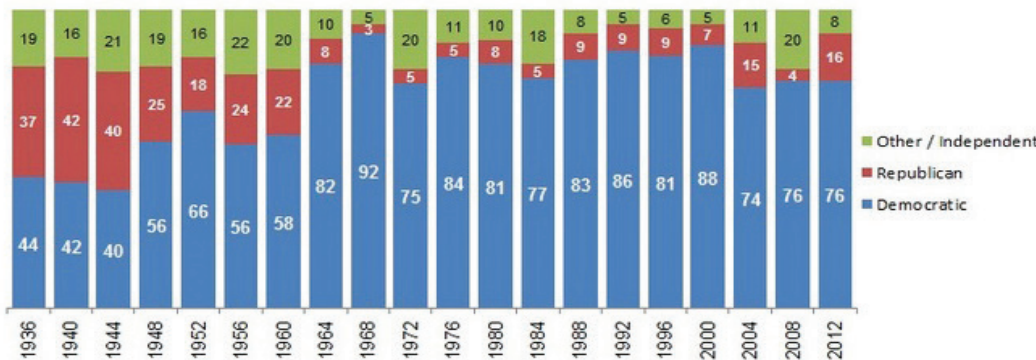
This issue of the Black Lens is a special election edition. Both of the candidates for Mayor of Spokane, every one of the candidates for the Spokane City Council, and all four of the Spokane School Board Candidates responded to questions that I posed about their reasons for running for office, their experience with diversity and their thoughts on the issues facing Blacks, amongst other questions. Each one of the candidates was kind and gracious, despite their political leaning, and I am grateful for their participation and the respect that they gave to The Black Lens and to the Black community by participating.

I understand that for many in the Black community the political process in many ways seems like a dysfunctional waste of time, at least that's how I feel on most days. So we avoid it. And we ignore it. But in the process of our avoiding and ignoring, decisions are made for us, and about us, on a daily basis that have a profound impact on our lives, and those decisions are made by people that we do not know, and more importantly who do not know us. I encourage you to read this paper, meet the candidates, and then go vote! **Black Votes Matter!**

# QUESTION OF THE MONTH

## When did the majority of Blacks start identifying as Democrats?

### Black Party Affiliation 1936 - 2012



Sources: Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies: Blacks and the 2012 Democratic National Convention & Pew Research Center: A Closer Look at the Parties in 2012

BlackDemographics.com

After the Civil War almost all Blacks considered themselves Republicans. It was the Republican Party that was started by abolitionists and was the party of President Abraham Lincoln, while Southern Democrats strongly opposed any rights for Blacks at the time and for almost a century thereafter, and African Americans were not even allowed to officially attend the Democratic convention until 1924. Things began to change during the "Great Depression" of the 1930s with Democrat Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and in 1948 when Harry S. Truman ordered the desegregation of the military. It was the association of civil rights legislation with John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Banes Jonson that solidified Black loyalty to the Democratic Party for good. Source: <http://blackdemographics.com/culture/black-politics>

# KYRS



88.1/92.3 FM

Humaculture, the only locally produced African-American news and views radio program in the Northwest, Saturdays 1-2 PM

The Soul Dimensions of DX Pryme music program Fridays 10 AM - noon

Streaming at [kyrs.org](http://kyrs.org)

## THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

The Black Lens is a local newspaper that is focused on the news, events, issue, and people and information that are important to Spokane's African American Community. It is published monthly on the first of the month by: Square Peg Multimedia, 9116 E. Sprague Avenue #48 Spokane Valley, WA 99206, (509) 795-1964, [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com)

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# BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## Local, State, National and Around the World

### FORMER ROGERS TEACHER PLANS RUN FOR SUPERINTENDENT



(Source: erinjoens2016.org)

Erin Jones, a former teacher at Rogers High School in Spokane, is running for State Superintendent, she says, “because I want to leverage my vast experiences to serve my state in the most impactful way.” The adopted daughter of two educators, Erin grew up in The Netherlands where her parents taught at the American School of The Hague. She speaks four languages: Dutch, French, English and Spanish. She attended Bryn Mawr College, where she earned a BA in Comparative Literature with a focus on literatures of the African Diaspora.

Later, Erin earned her teaching certificate at Pacific Lutheran University with endorsements in English, French and ELL. In 2007, the Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers named her Most Innovative Foreign Language Teacher. In 2007, Erin was selected as a Milken Educator of the Year for Washington state while teaching at Rogers High School, and in 2013, Erin was selected as one of ten White House Champions of Change for Educational Excellence for African Americans for her work promoting educational excellence for African-Americans in the community. Most recently, the Washington state PTA honored Erin with their

Educator of the Year award in 2015. Additionally, she served for three years as Assistant State Superintendent for Student Achievement where her work was centered around developing policy recommendations and promoting instructional best practices for diverse student groups.

Of her experience, Erin says “I have been involved in education for the past 23 years, as a volunteer in a public school in North Philadelphia, a substitute in South Bend, IN, a private school teacher, an ESL instructor, a classroom teacher in English and French Immersion in Tacoma, an instructional coach and AVID teacher in Spokane, an assistant state superintendent (working for the current superintendent, Randy Dorn), and now a school district director.

In an interview reported in the Seattle Times, Erin said “We can’t do the same old things because it’s not serving our students well — at all. Teachers are teaching the same way they were taught themselves, 20 and 30 years ago. But kids are not the same.”

*The election for the Washington State Superintendent will take place in November of 2016.*

### Graphic Video shows Delaware police fatally shoot man in wheelchair



(Source: Blue Telusma, <http://thegriot.com>)

On September 23, the Wilmington Police Department reported that their officers were dispatched to a parking lot where a man was reportedly suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound — and he was still armed. Police said that they observed the suspect, who was later identified as Jeremy McDole, holding a revolver-style handgun and repeatedly ordered him to drop his weapon.

A recording by a bystander captures the shooting. Chief Bobby Cummings said McDole’s movements indicated he was about to “remove the weapon from his waist.” McDole’s family says it was murder. The four officers involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave, and Chief Cummings, along with Mayor Williams, have both apologized to the McDole family. The case is still under investigation.

### University of Phoenix Partners With U.S. Black Chambers for Entrepreneur Training



(Source: [www.jbhe.com](http://www.jbhe.com)) The University of Phoenix School of Business has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Black Chambers (USBC) Inc. to provide an educational training program for USBC members and other African American small business owners. The USBC Step Up Entrepreneurs Program will consist of a three-week online course of study that will educate students in cash flow, market analysis, and financial performance. Byron Jones, chief financial officer at the University of Phoenix, said that the “University of Phoenix is pleased to partner with USBC.”

### Miss America Organization Apologizes to Vanessa Williams After 32 Years



(Source: Shakeitta McCord, <http://atlantablackstar.com>)

After 32 years, the Miss America pageant has apologized to Vanessa Williams. The 52-year-old star made history in 1983 when she became the first Black woman to be crowned Miss America. Her achievement was praised nationwide, but it would be short-lived. Just 10 months into her reign, the pageant forced Williams to resign after explicit photos that she had taken a year earlier were published in Penthouse magazine. Though the photos were published without her consent, Williams was pressured to leave, becoming the only Miss America in history to step down.

During the September 13 national broadcast of the Miss America pageant, Sam Haskell, the executive chairman of the pageant, apologized to Williams and her mother for the way his predecessors handled the controversy. After the pageant, Williams spoke to journalists and expressed her gratitude for the support she has received over the years.

### Black Doctor Takes on Racism in His New Book, “Black Man in a White Coat”



(Source: <http://blacknews.com>)

African American psychiatrist Damon Tweedy has authored a medical memoir called *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor’s Reflections on Race and Medicine* that examines the complex ways in which both black doctors and patients must navigate the difficult and often contradictory terrain of race and medicine. GoodReads says the book is “powerful, moving, and deeply empathic”, and USA Today calls the book a “timely, thought-provoking examination of our heartbreaking health care system.”

### Ugandan Woman Invents Medical App That Could Save Lives



(Source: Robert Stiitt - <http://www.financialjunteenth.com>)

Brenda Katwesigye is a native of Uganda, a country not known for its technological infrastructure or even its cell phone service. Even so, this innovative entrepreneur is the brainchild of the mobile app “*InstaHealth*”, which, according to Black Enterprise, “instantly connects users to health centers, medical specialists and ambulance services, and allows them to share their health experiences with millions of people.”

The idea for the app came when Katwesigye was working on a medical project while she was studying at a university. She got sick while doing research in a small village 500km (310 miles) away from a major city and did not know how she was going to get health care. Katwesigye realized that despite the lack of physical internet wiring, over 40 percent of Ugandans are connected to the mobile internet. She told Black Enterprise that she has already been a “part of a global accelerator in Silicon Valley (Blackbox Connect) and had been awarded by the International Telecommunication Union for this product.” For her inspiration, Katwesigye was selected as a 2015 *She Leads Africa* finalist.

### Meet Marvel’s New Super Hero! Moon Girl



Entertainment

to Black Enterprise Magazine, she is more like a “female Inspector Gadget”. The two characters will embark on their adventures together while living in New York City.

(Source: Naturally Triage - <http://naturallymoi.com>)

‘Devil Dinosaur’ was a comic that told the story of a red Tyrannosaurus Rex along with his caveman-like friend, Moon Boy. But in the new and improved comic, ‘Devil Dinosaur’ joins his forces with a little girl by the name of Luella Lafayette, who is also known as Moon Girl, and she isn’t the average little girl, according to Black Enterprise Magazine, she is more like a “female Inspector Gadget”. The two characters will embark on their adventures together while living in New York City.



# YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

## ALEKSANDER PUSHKIN

History by Bertoni: Art and Article by Bertoni Jones (jbaguart@yahoo.com)

*Aleksander Pushkin* was called the “Father of Russian Literature” for an innovative style of writing which set the standard and transformed a nation’s approach to the written word.

Born in Moscow, Russia, June 6, 1799, Aleksander was the middle of three children born to a Russian officer, Sergei Lvovich Pushkin and a tan-skinned Creole mother of noble birth, Nadejda Ossipovna. His great grandfather was the Abyssinian (Ethiopian) Abram Petrovich Gannibal (1697-1781), one of the great geniuses of Europe.

Aleksander grew up on estates with servants and tutors and formed a love of reading. By the age eight he spoke French as well as he spoke Russian. He entered a school (The Tsarskoe Selo Lyceum) which was reserved for children of prominent families in Russia and there found a deep connection with poetry and verse. His first piece was published at the age of fourteen.

In school he became a highly-skilled swordsman, swimmer, horseman, and expert in dueling pistols, a danger that lived with him his entire life. After graduation in 1817 he moved to St. Petersburg and his reputation bloomed. He rebelliously used the power of the pen to criticize Emperor Alexander I and his government’s treatment of common folk. His 1820 poem “Ode to Freedom” infuriated the Emperor so much that he exiled Alexander to Southern Russian until 1824.

During the years of his exile and return he created diverse and powerful pieces in plays, dramas, historical romance, and tragedy. His 1827 work “The Blackamoor of Peter the Great” is an ode to his Abyssinian heritage and great grandfather,

Abram. The Blackamoor of Peter the Great is the first modern literary fictional work of a Moorish writer with a Moorish hero.

In 1831 Alexander married Natalie Goncharova and they had four children. Russia’s new Emperor, Nicholas I, was infatuated with Aleksander’s wife Natalie and humiliated the poet by giving him the lowest title in the royal court. The insults, constant debts, and a strained marriage weighed heavy on Aleksander. The final straw came with allegations of his wife’s affair with a French Baron.

On January 27, 1837 Aleksander and the Baron met for a duel. Both men suffered gunshot wounds but two days later Aleksander died as a result of mortal injuries.

Russia acknowledges Aleksander Pushkin “The Father of Russian Literature” for his ability to fuse old Slavic language with a new colorful, lively, and lyrically honest form of speech. Pushkin’s play on words was similar to Coltrane or Miles’ play on notes. His style reinvented not only Russian ideas in writing but also forced all of Europe herself to rethink style and possibility.

#### Sources:

*Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack*  
*The Stolen Prince: Gannibal, Adopted son of Peter the Great, Great Grandfather of Alexander Pushkin, And Europe’s First Black Intellectual – Hugh Barnes*  
*Pushkin: A Biography – Henri Troyat*  
*Online-Literature.com (Alexander-pushkin)*



## HIRAM REVELS

### First African American United States Senator

#### Information provided by the United States Senate Historical Office.

On February 25, 1870, visitors in the Senate galleries burst into applause as senator-elect **Hiram Revels**, a Republican from Mississippi, entered the chamber to take his oath of office. Those present knew that they were witnessing an event of great historical significance. Revels was about to become the first African American to serve in the Senate.

Born 42 years earlier to free black parents in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Revels became an educator and minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. During the Civil War, he helped form regiments of African American soldiers and established schools for freed slaves. Af-

ter the war, Revels moved to Mississippi, where he won election to the state senate.

In recognition of his hard work and leadership skills, his legislative colleagues elected him to one of Mississippi’s vacant U.S. Senate seats as that state prepared to rejoin the Union.

Revels’ credentials arrived in the Senate on February 23, 1870, and were immediately blocked by a few members who had no desire to see a black man serve in Congress.

Masking their racist views, they argued that Revels had not been a U.S. citizen for the nine years required of all senators. In their distorted interpretation, black Americans had only become citizens with the passage of the 1866 Civil Rights Act, just

four years earlier. Revels’ supporters dismissed that statement, pointing out that he had been a voter many years earlier in Ohio and was therefore certainly a citizen.

Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner brought the debate to an end with a stirring speech. “The time has passed for argument. Nothing more need be said. For a long time it has been clear that colored persons must be senators.” Then, by an overwhelming margin, the Senate voted 48 to 8 to seat Revels.

Three weeks later, the Senate galleries again filled to capacity as Hiram Revels rose to make his first formal speech. Seeing himself as a representative of African American interests throughout the nation, he

spoke—unsuccessfully as it turned out—against a provision included in legislation readmitting Georgia to the Union. He correctly predicted that the provision would be used to prohibit blacks from holding office in that state.

When Hiram Revels’ brief term ended on March 3, 1871, he returned to Mississippi, where he later became president of Alcorn College.

*Reference Items:*  
*U.S. Congress. Senate. The Senate, 1789-1989, Vol. 2, by Robert C. Byrd. 100th Cong., 1st sess., 1991. S. Doc.100-20.*

*To read the complete article visit: [http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/First\\_African\\_American\\_Senator.htm](http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/First_African_American_Senator.htm)*

*For additional information about Hiram Revels visit [www.BlackPast.org](http://www.BlackPast.org)*



# AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EDUCATION

*Looking Back in Order to Move Forward:*

A Seven Part Series By Lawrence Burnley, Ph.D.

## Part II: Protestant Christianity and Schooling: Domination or Liberation?

The purpose and function of formal education in the United States traces its foundational origins to orthodox Protestant Christianity. A Calvinist brand of Protestantism dominated the Northern colonies. They stressed reading of the Bible and education as being paramount for salvation. Lyman Beecher, a prominent Congregationalist preacher and president of Lane Theological Seminary (in Ohio), believed God was just and humankind was corrupt at its core. God was sovereign, and God would accomplish human progress in and through the new Republic.

In 1832, Beecher asserted that by divine providence, the United States would lead the world to moral and political emancipation. The primary battlefield would be in the West and the focus of the battle would be whether or not the “sons” of the West would be educated “for the purposes of superstition, or evangelical light; of despotism, or liberty.” Beecher would argue that the education of the nation was the most important work of all.

Dominant forms of Protestant Christianity not only informed an emerging philosophy of education, it would also be used by many to justify the genocide of Indigenous (First Nation) populations and the brutal and dehumanizing treatment of African people. This treatment included a form of chattel enslavement never before seen in human history, and a justification to prevent African people, “free” and enslaved, from becoming a learned and literate people.

Ideological formations that shaped educational philosophy in the North and the South were laden with presuppositions of the innate inferiority of people of color in general, and people of African descent in particular. Such thinking was reinforced

by Protestant theological perspectives that were informed by an approach to biblical interpretation aimed at appropriating its message in a way that protected and advanced the socioeconomic and political interests of the dominant group—as defined by this group.

Whites, with relatively few exceptions, interpreted the Bible to benefit themselves. They believed they were the inheritors of God’s blessing. Conversely, Blacks were inheritors of God’s curse, which for some explained and justified their state of involuntary servitude. A quote from Philip Schaff, an influential Reformed preacher and professor of Church History at Union Theological Seminary in New York, is representative of the type of thinking that thrived in nineteenth-century America.

Writing in 1861, Schaff states that, “Ham, the father of Canaan, represents the idolatrous and servile race; Shem, the Israelites who worshipped Jehovah, the only true and living God; Japheth, those gentiles, who by their contact with Shem were brought to a knowledge of the true religion... Whether we connect with it or not, it is simply a fact which no one can deny, that the Negro to this day is a servant of servants in our midst. Japheth, on the other hand, the progenitor of half the human race, who possesses a part of Asia and the whole of Europe, is still extending his posterity and territory in the westward course of empire, and holds Ham in bondage far away from his original home and final destination.”

Among enslaved and free African and later African American people, trying to make sense of Christianity in light of their experience of violence and brutality of slavery at the hands of “Christians” gave birth to a very different understanding of Biblical

teaching. At the core of this understanding were God’s desire for their freedom, liberation and the unquestionable affirmation of their humanity.

Historian Albert Raboteau agrees that the spiritual formation of Black people demonstrates an integration of multiple cultural orientations and worldviews and cultural norms through the lens of their experience with the violence of slavery.

In his classical book, *Slave Religion: The “Invisible Institution” in the Antebellum South*, Raboteau writes, “African beliefs and customs were transmitted by slaves to their descendants shaped and modified by a new environment; elements of African folklore, music, language, and religion were transplanted in the New World by the African diaspora. Influenced by colonial English and indigenous Native American cultures, aspects of the African Heritage have contributed, in greater or lesser degree, to the formation of various Afro-American cultures in the New World. One of the most durable and adaptable constituents of the slave’s culture linking African past with American present was his religion.”

Very early in their experience in the western hemisphere, Black people’s value of and desire to read and attain an education was intense. To understand the intensity of Black interest and initiative regarding schooling and literacy development is to understand the relationship between literacy and spirituality among Black people during this period. In general, African and later African Americans in U.S., came to accept the evangelical belief that reading the Bible for one’s self was an essential part of the process of achieving a “right” relationship with God. The Bible and the



Christian religion represented the promise of a better world for many enslaved and free Africans alike.

For some, primary attention given to this “better world” reflected the acceptance of an “otherworldly” theology—a theology preached to them by Whites. This theology emphasized redemption and blessing in heaven. It was used as a method to deflect attention from Blacks who wanted to secure a positive socioeconomic and political transformation of their condition in “this world.” Others believed that literacy paved the way to radically improve their condition in both “this world” and the “next world” after death.

Not long after their arrival in the Western hemisphere, the quest to develop literacy soon became a primary element in Black people’s search for a better life. The religious and spiritual formation of Africans and African Americans would play a profound role in both the acceptance and rejection of the form and function of European-centered schooling. The interconnectedness of literacy and religion was profound for African Americans during the period. It can be argued that the two are inseparable. For African Americans and for many Whites who fought for freedom and educational access for Black people, Christianity was not a rationale for domination, but a demand for liberation!

*Next in this Series - Part III: “Education and the Development of Social Class”*

## THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

### Emotional Bullying

By Evelyn Anderton

Have you ever thought you have heard it all, and absolutely nothing can surprise you? If you answered yes, join the club. Many have made that statement and had to reconsider soon afterward. In today’s society it almost seems like any and everything goes, so nothing should be a surprise.

Recently, I was channel surfing to see which morning show I wanted to watch. The Today Show topic was “Parents who are bullied by their children”. I thought I had heard it all but this topic got my attention immediately.

There was a time when kids were scared of their parents and now we’re living in a time where parents appear to be scared of their kids. Whatever happened to children being seen and not heard? It was unheard of for me or my friends to participate in a grown-up conversation. However, it seems to be common practice with the children and parents in today’s society. Parents seem so

uncomfortable with setting limits and taking their rightful position as head of the household.

Their hearts are in the right place and they want to be more attentive to their kid’s needs than their parents were to their needs. Somewhere along the line parents have over corrected the parenting process, turning into a generation of “parent pleasers,” rarely saying “no” for fear of hurting their children’s feelings.

It is unsafe for a child to have that much power over their parents. Parents must be more assertive with their parental authority. Kids today are more demanding and more anxious, so often kids learn that “no” means “maybe”. That is what gives kids wiggle room to keep negotiating, emotionally bullying their parents. This reinforces the bad behavior and fuels the notion that the louder they complain, the more they will eventually get their way.



Parents have to be able to tolerate their children’s stormy emotions without rushing in to fix them. If not addressed, parents will find themselves unintentionally crippling their kids. Parents should strive and work hard to raise resilient kids, not fragile, entitled ones.

Parents need the gentle reminder that discipline actually means to teach not to punish, and that setting loving limits will help raise a thriving child. Parents can acknowledge and empathize with a child’s feelings, and yet still hold the authoritative line. A parent’s job is not to be a “parent pleaser”. A parent’s foremost job is to parent the child. Parents have to be able to hold a loving space for the child’s anger or hurt feelings while staying the course.

I recently met with some East Central Community Center seniors (ages 58 – 88) and asked the question what do you think

about kids bullying parents? Miss Violet, the oldest in the group at age 88 stated, “Parents are lazy and their children need training”. Miss Pat who recently turned 68 stated, “Parents need to get back to spanking their kids, it didn’t kill me and it won’t kill them”.

Miss Mary who will be 82 years young this month stated, “Parents are spoiling their children, buying too much and not saying “no” sometimes”. Miss Marylyn who is in her early 70’s stated, “This new generation of children has no respect and parents don’t seem to care. Parents need to get back to old school parenting and let these kids know who the boss is”. Miss Sally, also in her 70’s, was in agreement with what all the ladies said.

Parents need to get back to basics, know that it’s okay to say “no” and if the child gets mad, help them understand your role as a parent and why you made your executive decision. Being a parent is a lifetime commitment and a full time job. You don’t get vacation or sick leave. You don’t clock in or out, and you are on the job 24/7.

Parents remember your power the next time your little one decides to have a tantrum in the toy store. Help and assist them with understanding the affect of proper behaviors and the consequences of poor behavior.



# SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## BEN STUCKART | JOHN AHERN

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council President?

I am running for reelection because I want to finish the job we have started. In my first 3 ½ years we have increased library hours, developed a long term plan for our streets and protected the health of our river. Now is the time to focus on working families and economic development.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for City Council President?

I am a hard working City Council President. I have passed more legislation in my first 3 ½ years than many council members do in 8 years. I have championed working families, the environment and am not afraid of controversy.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I am proud to stand up for every member of our community. I led the creation of the targeted investment program pilot. Focusing on East Sprague we will have invested over \$18 million dollars from 22 different sources when completed.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I have recently become the Co-Chair of the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council's Racial Equity Committee. Since the Council was founded I have pushed for the creation of this committee. The justice is not equitable and we need to fix it.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

I plan on working on increasing Spokane's Medium Income level. I am on the Airport Board and University District Board. These two organizations are integral to attracting companies that pay living wages. I also plan on replicating the targeted investment we have started on Sprague in other neighborhoods.

### 6) From the perspective of City Council President, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Spokane needs to reduce inequality at all levels. I do not think there is a single system that is not in some way touched by systemic racism. City Council and Council staff are currently undergoing cultural training at my behest and hopefully this leads to a



lense of racial equity on all policies that we consider.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

Institutional racism and low incomes are the two biggest challenges I see. We can confront them by using a better framework for viewing policy, attracting high wage jobs for everyone and most importantly creating a community that welcomes everyone. That includes not denigrating undocumented immigrants.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I am chair of the racial equity committee of the Law and Justice Council and hope that working every week with members of the community helps me build bridges and be better.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I see Spokane in ten years as a thriving city that invites everyone in and denigrates none.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I grew up in Spokane, have seen it struggle but also see it blooming. I hope my track record of caring for every member of the community earns me a second a term.

### 1. What prompted you to run for City Council?

Due to my increasing concern for the direction the current City Council members were taking the City of Spokane, the need for better planning, organizing and directing required me to run for office. Also, the current president's irresponsible behavior and lack of professionalism clearly shows a lack of maturity, and indicates a need to attend anger management classes.

### 2. Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

As State Representative, I served in the Legislature for 10 years. I am the successful CEO and President of my own local business as well as being a US Army veteran. As an active member of Kiwanis for over 15 years, I served as the Kiwanis Lt. Governor. Formerly, I served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. I graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in Business.

### 3. What is something that you are most proud of and why?

While in the Legislature, I became the leading force in obtaining the passage of Washington State's first felony DUI law that continues to keep citizens safe and save lives. In the first year of implementing the law, 24 lives were summarily saved earning me the prestigious National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) award.

### 4. What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

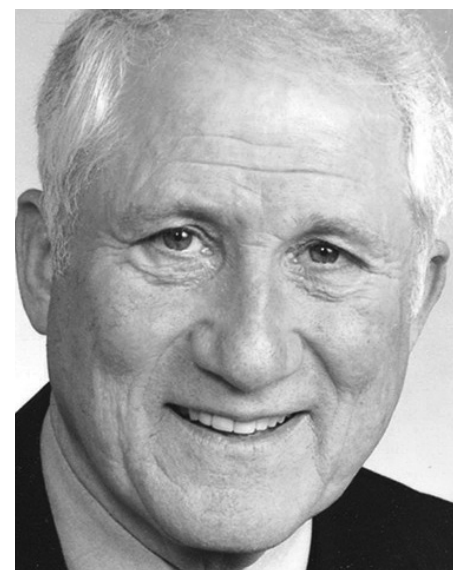
Personally, I have not experienced nor observed any racial animosity to others.

### 5. List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

Three major issues need to be immediately addressed. Taxes need to be reduced to increase job opportunities and make Spokane an attractive city to relocate. Repair of the city's infrastructure such as roads especially potholes remains an ongoing project. With over regulation of the business arena, new businesses become reluctant to relocate to the City of Spokane and therefore, nullifying any future jobs, increased revenue and the presence of new businesses. Currently, Spokane maintains an 8% unemployment rate while 20 miles away, Coeur d'Alene, ID maintains a 4% unemployment rate.

### 6. From the perspective of the City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Listening to the people rather than insulting them as is the wont of the current council. Be open to different ideas from different groups. Take a creative ap-



proach to solve problems and do not be frightened to think outside the box to arrive at a solution to benefit all concerned.

### 7. What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

The attraction of new businesses and maintaining of jobs and increased entrepreneurship are the biggest challenges. Also, addressing the need for more charter schools is another challenge. The idea of charter schools has proven to be especially beneficial to African American children.

### 8. In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

In my sales career, I have worked closely with Percy "Happy" Watkins in a general collaborative effort while being good friends. I plan to integrate the ideas generated by all communities to arrive at solutions that would benefit all concerned.

### 9. As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

With an expanded job market and a business-friendly environment, more people of different races will resettle in Spokane. An economically-healthy city will produce benefits for all races.

### 10. Why should a person of color vote for you?

I am an honest person with integrity. I view a person based on his or her characteristics and attitudes not his or her skin hue. Under the US Constitution, every citizen is guaranteed to be equal and is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I wholeheartedly believe in these ideas and live my life based on these beliefs.



## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

### ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 3

ONLINE & MAIL-IN REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT. 5

IN PERSON REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT. 26

Spokane County Elections Office, 1033 W. Gardner Ave, Spokane, WA 99260  
509 477-2320 [www.spokanecounty.org/elections/myvote](http://www.spokanecounty.org/elections/myvote)



# CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1 - POSITION 1

## MIKE FAGAN

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

I am running for re-election because I have been asked and widely encouraged to do so by many constituents with far ranging political stances and ideologies. I have come to be known as the "constituents councilman" because it is the wants, wishes and concerns of those I serve which are my number one priority. I came to office not to change the landscape of the city, but to continue a long standing record of providing service as a servant leader.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

The great thing about our founding fathers is that they established a govt. that is of, for and by the people therefore there are minimal qualifications at the various levels of govt. to participate. I believe that one needs to possess a servant/leader heart, and be able to draw on their own life experiences, education, value and belief system to assist them in creating good public policy.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

One major issue that I continuously encounter is the affordability of govt. to it's citizens. I am most proud of the recent passing of my effort in proposition 1 during the primary election by a vote of 81% yes, which directly affects the way the salary and evaluation process is handled for the Mayor.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

My legislative assistant and I are the only true racial minorities in the Spokane City Council office today. (\*Note: Both Mr. Fagan and his assistant are biracial) On a personal note, my own family was and/or is made up of many racial ethnicities including Japanese, Mexican, Black, White, and Native American. I grew up as a child overseas, and have served in the Army overseas so my exposure to other cultures has been beneficial to my position of Councilman. I am engaged in the local refugee community, I have served as the president of the Spokane Sister cities organization for 5 years, and my immediate family regularly hosts Japanese and Korean exchange students.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

I am all about affordability of govt. services to the people we serve and one of the things I'd like to change in the city is how the city goes about forming a "local improvement district", or LID's. We have at least 140 miles of unpaved dirt and gravel roads in residential areas in the city and current law makes paving of these very cost prohibitive. I am in the process of evaluating changes at the local level and may need to work with our state delegation for minor state law changes. We are a society which loves our cars yet, we spend \$63,350.00 per mile of bicycle lanes. That kind of money would pay for an annual salary of a policeman or fireman. While there have been great strides made in our law enforcement effort to change their culture and regain public trust, there is still a long way to go here. I am part of the team (council is a team sport) that has employed the use of; reforms, restructure, recruitment, and re-branding in order to change that culture and further the goal of regaining public trust.

### 6) From the perspective of the



### City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Continuous education, youth programs, cultural celebration and exchanges are the best in my opinion. We must stop engaging in creating law and/or policy which promotes special class or entitlement for any one group of minority. At the end of the day, we are all Americans.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

It is hard for me to comment on this topic specific to Spokane with out first having a more intimate knowledge of what kinds of issues are being faced. I believe that all Americans are facing the same issues regardless of race including the promotion of other than a complete family unit with a mother and father figure, the education system with their movement of indoctrination as opposed to education, and there is a huge lack of preaching the true gospel on real time social issues we face, just to name a few.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

As a Christian man, I have been more effective in the faith based circles than anywhere else. My family is deeply involved in the Hillyard "Youth for Christ" effort for instance. It truly hasn't helped that the media portrays me in the way that they do because I am sure that has kept people and the potential collaborations very limited to this point. It is the media who now has changed their opinion and it is the media who has bestowed the title of "Constituents Councilman" upon me. I have always been approachable to anyone, and I think that things will change positively for all of us in the future. I have always loved the saying; "I can do things that you cannot, and you can do things that I cannot, but together, we can accomplish any-thing."

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

That is a very tough question because if we continue down the road that we are on, I believe that we are going to be in big trouble with all aspects of American life. As stated above, the breakdown of the family unit, the lack of proper education, and people leaving the church is becoming key to the downfall of our great nation.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I think the reasons are obvious here. I am truthful, transparent, open and available to discuss any issue, on any matter, at anytime. I am not perfect, there is only one that I know of who is.

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

A few years ago I began focusing myself on finding ways to help improve my community and the lives of people in it. I graduated from the Spokane Tribal College and began working as a recruiter for the school, while also working as a life skills coach at the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations. As I continued to work and meet new people who were also involved with the social justice community, I began to realize that there was a lot more that I could be doing; there was a bigger platform from which I could work to support positive change in our community. After speaking with people that were close to me I came to the conclusion that running for City Council would be the best way for me to help the largest amount of people.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

As a recruiter for the Spokane Tribal College I have worked to help people overcome life situations that serve as barriers to higher education. As a life skills coach at the Healing Lodge I have worked with young people who are battling chemical dependency to help them find positive ways to express themselves and lead productive lives. As a member of the United Native Public Development Authority, I have worked to find ways to increase the availability of affordable housing in Spokane. Finally, working as a part of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Multicultural Affairs, I have been a part of an effort to find ways to develop new training and de-escalation practices for Spokane's police department. These experiences, along with many others, have prepared me to take on the difficult task of representing my district on Spokane's City Council.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

My children are my inspiration. Smart, caring, and thoughtful, they impress me with their ability to learn new things, their willingness to go out of their way to help others, and their positive attitude that enables them to love unconditionally. As I continue to watch my children grow, and as I in turn grow with them, I find new reasons each day to be proud of who they are and what they accomplish.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

While Spokane might not seem like the most diverse city on the surface, a closer look reveals an eclectic population with a lot to offer. There are more than 20,000 Native Americans living in the Spokane area, representing over 80 tribes from around the country. Families of new Americans have come from all over the world to make Spokane their home. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, however. We need to work to overcome and eliminate implicit bias in policing. We need to improve outcomes for students of color in our schools. We need to find ways to encourage entrepreneurship and business growth within communities of color. The cooperation and collective efforts of all of these people will be necessary as Spokane continues to grow.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

A couple of the biggest problems facing our city are the lack of affordable housing, and the lack of living wage jobs. Unfortunately, these two things contribute directly to increases in drug use and crime, and to divestment from Spokane's business communities. I plan to work with both private and nonprofit entities to find ways to increase the availability of affordable housing by encouraging them to take advantage of available grants and tax incentives. I would like to work with different labor and business groups to find the best way to increase the number of living wage jobs in Spokane. Whether that's through increasing



the minimum wage, or by encouraging new industries to develop in our city, there are a variety of ways we can work together to find solutions that are mutually beneficial. By staying focused on outcomes that improve the lives of everyone, we can put Spokane in position to become the best possible version of itself as we head into the future.

### 6) From the perspective of the City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Earlier this year, the City Council voted to pass an ordinance that prohibited police from asking about the citizenship statuses of people they interact with. I supported this measure, and I believe that it is a great example of how the City Council can work to make Spokane more inclusive.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

African Americans are disproportionately represented in a wide range of statistics, from drop out rates to the prison population. Lowering these numbers is going to be the biggest challenge for African Americans and people of color in the years ahead. In order to address these issues our city needs to find ways to improve educational outcomes for minorities, increase the amount of vocational training opportunities in Spokane, and find alternatives to incarceration that will encourage rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. By focusing on these issues we can erase the school to prison pipeline, and replace it with one that leads to entrepreneurship, success, and community well-being.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

Working with the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Multicultural Affairs has allowed me the opportunity to work with some of the leaders of the African American community. Working to create policies where all people, regardless of their background, can feel safe when encountering police is the focus of the committee. By continuing to work with this group I look forward to encouraging others to be able to see our city from different perspectives, and to building a more inclusive and accepting community.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I look forward to seeing Spokane celebrate its diversity in new ways. I see a future that has us working together to overcome the adversity we've shared, and developing a reputation of inclusiveness and shared prosperity.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

Having come from a diverse community myself, I believe that I have the unique ability in this race to identify with, and to accurately represent, people of color in my district. As City Council member, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of people in my district are heard and taken seriously.



# CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2 - POSITION 1

## LAVERNE BIEL

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

I live, work, and volunteer in the East Central Community. As an East Spokane Community stakeholder I believe our district needs representation. I am running for Spokane City Council because I believe that small business owners with and active community involvement are under represented on our current City Council. I have experience as an employee, an employee advocate, and an employer. I'm dedicated to finding and implementing solutions. I work hard and have a heart to serve.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

Board member of: East Central Community Organization, Past President to East Spokane Business Association, and small business owner since 1993. Past Chair of Associated Builders & Contractors, and current Board Member of Friendsview Retirement. Education: AA Degree 2001, Bachelor's Degree 2003, MBA 2010  
Work Experience: Waitress, receptionist, bookkeeper, HR manager  
Volunteer(ed): Family Promise and Crosswalk

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I was the Federal Compliance Officer for a construction company. I was able to raise our minority employee ratio to exceed the standard within a one year timeframe. I organized East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) when I took over as Chair. That structure is still being used today which encouraged the City of Spokane to choose our district for the Targeted Investment Program. I'm also proud of my family. They all are all community minded and caring individuals.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I was raised in a multiracial family. I wanted my children to have a similar experience which is why we lived and continue to live in (what's now called) the Perry District.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

My main priority is to get back to the basics of what Spokane City Council should be focusing on. Their mission statement states; "provide efficient and effective services that facilitate economic opportunities that enhance the quality of life". When all three of these conditions are met it benefits everyone in Spokane.

Public safety is another main concern. We need to continue to build trust and community partnerships with our first responders and the community. We also need to make transparent decisions with community input.

We also need to rebuild our roads with the money the taxpayers approved. This process has to have transparency on how streets are chosen with clear accounting of the money spent.

Lastly, I believe that the ombudsman position is a critical bridge between the community and the police force. I believe the hiring process needs to be revised to include more community members, clarify the qualifications, and expedite the process.

### 6) From the perspective of the



### City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Solid decisions are based on getting information from a variety of sources which educates the participants. It's easier to implement change when the educational piece can be easily discussed and vetted through other people and professionals. I believe this method fosters respect and encourages friendships.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

I am not African American. I am adopted. I know the two are unrelated and yet I wanted to point out that it's difficult to know the effects of perceptions unless you experience them first hand. I know that Spokane has more depth because of our variety of cultures. I perceive that Spokane's African American community feels like it contributes daily and does not believe that some of these efforts are recognized or valued. Spokane has had great African American leaders; Mayor James Chase, Roberta Green, Carl Maxey, and Linda Simms to name a few. While the past is important we cannot rest there. I believe we need to continue moving forward to improve collaborative communication to improved employment and educational opportunities for the African American community and for all of Spokane.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I joined the East Central Community Organization in January 2014 and worked closely with other board members during a difficult period. I respect the concerns that were expressed and believe we are reestablishing important partnerships and friendship with the African American community.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I believe that Spokane will experience more diversity with more blending of cultures within the next ten years as we have witnessed in the last ten. We will have great celebrations!

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I live in the East Central community by choice. I live out my beliefs.

## LORI KINNEAR

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

I have worked as a legislative aide to council for the past six and a half years. I participate in writing ordinances, constituent outreach, research and everything related to creating policy except voting. With this experience it is time for me to step up and serve. I pledge to make this my full-time job without the distraction of another business or part-time job.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

I have degrees in broadcast journalism and horticulture with experience in advertising, non-profit work. I am a former small business owner and business advisor for the Spokane Women's Business Center.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I started the Spokane Community Garden Program that allows gardens on public property. It serves low income communities empowering people to learn how to grow their own food.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

While working for TINCAN, a non-profit dedicated to bridging the digital divide, I taught computer classes at East Central Community Center and MLK center. Reaching out to children and helping them move forward gives them a chance to excel in school and in life. Most of those I taught were children of minority families.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

I wish to participate and pass a gender/racial pay equity ordinance, strengthen our human trafficking ordinance and continue working with the non-profit community to provide housing for the chronically homeless. I want to work to ensure our police force is properly trained to avoid confrontations as we have seen in other communities.

### 6) From the perspective of the City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

There should be more representation at the city level on Boards and Commissions for example and we should be actively recruiting people for elected office.

### 7) What do you see as the big-



### gest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

I think African Americans are underrepresented in our workforce and as decision makers in our community. More effort needs to be made to actively recruit, train and retain African Americans in family wage jobs and managerial positions especially for the City of Spokane.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

See question 4. Education and collaboration with leaders in the African American community can increase our understanding of each other and the challenges faced every day by our minority community.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

It is getting better however, we must be vigilant in our efforts to be an inclusive community. Initiatives such as the so called "Sanctuary City" initiative is counterproductive to that effort. Those individuals who signed that petition (as did my opponent) believe that Spokane should be an exclusive community. I reject that.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

Because I believe everyone matters and has something to offer our community. I want those who feel disempowered to be brought into the circle and given opportunity to make a difference.

VOTE

John  
AHERN

Experience Counts!

City Council President

[www.VoteJohnAhern.com](http://www.VoteJohnAhern.com)



# NAACP UPDATE

## FREEDOMS UNDER FIRE: The Voting Rights Act



<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>

**By Naima Quarles-Burnley**  
Spokane NAACP President

“*Freedoms Under Fire*” is the theme for the Spokane NAACP upcoming Freedom Fund Banquet on November 7, 2015 at the Northern Quest from 6-9. Our speaker will be Hilary O. Shelton, who presently serves as the Director of the NAACP’s Washington Bureau / Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy. Mr. Shelton has played an integral role in the crafting and final passage of such crucial federal legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1991. Hilary was also instrumental in ushering through to passage, The Civil Rights Restoration Act.

We used this theme over a decade ago, yet the current political environment is an indication that the freedom to vote, in particular, is still “under fire.” The movie *Selma* reminded us of the bloody battle to obtain the right to vote in 1965. The 1965 Voting Rights Act was designed to curtail discrimination in voting allowing all Americans to vote, regardless of the color of one’s skin. This legislation represented the culmination of more than a century of struggle by African Americans to attain the right to vote. Over time, the Voting Rights Act has been broadened to include protections for Latino/as and other minorities.

Even so, our Freedoms are still under fire. Just two years ago, the highest court in America, the Supreme Court, shattered a crucial provision of the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County vs. Holder*. This decision eliminated the ability of the federal government to block discriminatory election laws before they had a chance to go into effect. This ruling came at a time where all across the country we saw new laws restricting voting.

It seems that with the increase in voter



participation by communities of color there has been a reemergence of laws across the country restricting voting. Tactics such as last-minute changes to polling locations, new stringent picture identification requirements and consolidation of districts have been employed, serving to weaken minority voting.

According to Theodore M. Shaw, former counsel and president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, “since the 2010 election, 21 states have imposed new voting restrictions. In 2016, 15 states will have more strict rules than they did in 2012.” These new laws have been shown to disproportionately affect Black and Brown people.

We cannot take our right to vote for granted. Many people fought and died that we could have this right, our freedom to vote! Our “Freedoms are Under Fire!” If we fail to exercise our right to vote on November 4, 2015 we dishonor the memory of our ancestors while giving away the future of our children.

*Resource used: <https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/50-years-later-voting-rights-act-under-unprecedented-assault>*

To contact the Spokane NAACP call (509) 209-2425 (extension 1141), or visit the Spokane NAACP website at <http://spokanenaacp.com>.

### SPOKANE NAACP HOSTS REGIONAL AOWSAC CONFERENCE



NAACP members from Alaska, Oregon and across the state of Washington gathered in Spokane the weekend of September 18 for the annual Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference, where delegates from thirteen NAACP branches came together to discuss the Civil Rights issues of concern in their communities and collaborate on how to support one another. Nicholas Brown, General Counsel to Governor Inslee, was the luncheon speaker, and Kim Keenan, the former General Counsel and Secretary of the NAACP, the dinner keynote. Mayor Condon issued a proclamation declaring September 19, 2015 NAACP AOWSAC Day. The conference closed on Sunday with a worship service led by Rev. Lonnie and Elisha Mitchell.

### CondonforMayor.com

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“He doesn’t just talk the talk; he walks the walk. He’s delivered on the promises he made. Crime is down, and police officers are up.”

**Earl Moore**  
30-year Shadle resident

“Mayor Condon’s leadership has transformed our city. His willingness to include smart, savvy managers, across party lines has yielded positive results.”

**Francis Adewale**  
Attorney & Community Activist



“The mayor has brought in Democrats, Republicans, and Independents and the decisions he’s made have not had a hint of partisanship about them.”

**Tom Keefe**  
Former Chair,  
Spokane Democratic Party

### I want to hear from you.

The first job of the mayor is to listen. Call me any time to share your thoughts: 993-2633



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Spokane Public Schools Position 4

**SCHOOL BOARD**

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# FROM SPOKANE TO NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

By Renika Williams



Serena Williams was born in a small Midwestern town in Michigan. As a toddler, her family moved to Compton, CA and soon after she began to pursue what would soon become her internationally-dominating tennis career. After winning tournament after tournament, trophy after trophy, and proving herself to be a champion both on the court and off, Serena has proven to her naysayers and doubters that any young black girl, from Anytown, America could accomplish anything. It is determination, not situation, that decides the successes that you achieve.

I have wanted to work in fashion my whole life, and I have never wavered from that dream. Like Serena, I was born and raised in a small(er) town, Spokane, WA, to a family who did everything they could to ensure that I would and could follow my dreams. And that I did. From filming my own fashion television show with dolls in my basement, to graduating from one of the most prestigious fashion schools in New York City, to getting hired as a designer for Serena Williams' Line for HSN, I had accomplished my goals. Well all except one.

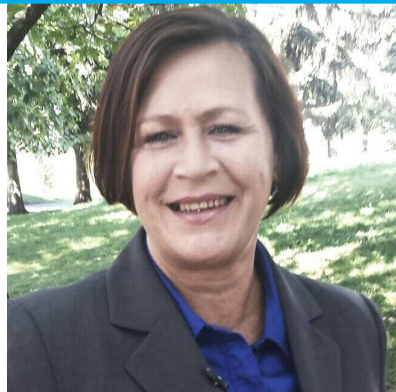
This year Serena Williams had a huge fashion show during New York Fashion Week and because the company I work for produces her line, I was able to work with Serena and her team first hand to develop a beautiful show that was attended by one of my idols, former Editor-at-Large Andre Leon Talley, as well as Vogue Editor Anna Wintour, Drake, and Serena Williams herself. Press attended. Celebrities attended. And our families watched from the front rows as the models strutted down the runway in 2016's newest fashions. We were two girls with the faith of our families and the help of their communities, who were accomplishing the impossible. And it felt amazing.

I cannot express enough that the most important part of this experience for me was having my mom there. My mom who had watched me fall and fail and cry, and who had pulled me back from the brink of giving up, to see me succeed. To revel in the hard work that we both had done to get to this moment. To feel a piece of my hometown, Spokane, Washington, there at New York Fashion Week. That was the greatest accomplishment of my life. So far...



*"I will be the Mayor that truly represents the people of Spokane! It is time for, we the people, to work together for a more secure and prosperous community for all!"*

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# BLACK AFRO-COMICS AND SCIENCE FICTION

By Romeal Watson

Anyone who has allowed themselves to be fooled by the belief that “Black people don’t create their own narratives and characters” should seriously consider doing some research; because there are many of us out here doing it. Whether it is Afropunk, Cyberfunk, Sword-and-Soul, Steamfunk, Afropolitanism , Afrofuturism, or Afroretroism; the extent of our work has always been known to those who made it a priority.



To understand what I mean, I would like to run a small test, in order to gauge your level of understanding regarding Black representation in the comic book industry. Besides the all-too-typical characters like Storm and Blade, how many Black comic book characters can you name? If you can identify at least ten, then by Black standards, you are decent in your understanding of Black comic book characters.



Black comic book characters have been depicted as early as the 1930’s, but it wasn’t until the 1960s that publishing houses began to feature leading Black characters. And while white male characters dominated the industry, the representations of Black heroes/heroines, although dormant, remain extraordinary till this very day.

In the 1940s, the only Black character to appear in Timely Comics (predecessor to Marvel) was literally named “WhiteWash” Jones and was depicted in the same stereotypical ”sambo” images.



Lobo (Dec. 1965) was the first comic book with a leading Black character.



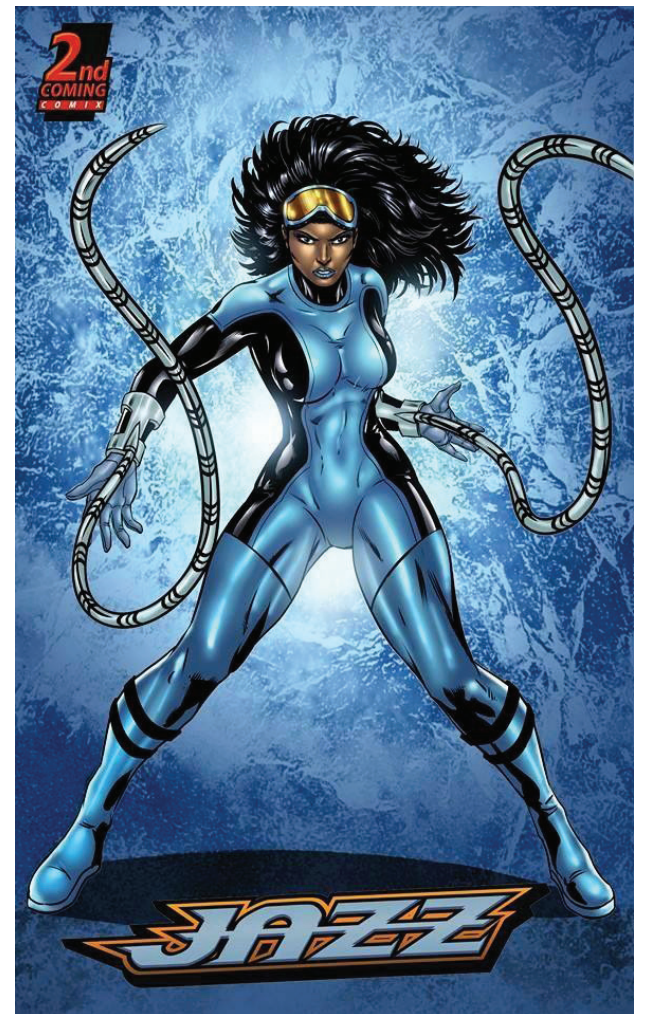
Many are familiar with the character Black Panther (introduced in Fantastic Four #52, July 1966), the first Black mainstream superhero in American comic books. It was a year after the assassination of Malcolm X, and two years before the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., when national politics was crucial for the Black community.



Today’s artists have continued to carry the torch, pushing for their chance to tell their stories. Aside from Storm, other Black female characters such as Misty Stone and Vixen are still some of today’s leading characters.

Times are still similar in that much of the mass audience would rather support characters that most resemble the dominant culture. That unfortunate fact doesn’t seem to stop many of today’s artists, who have designed their own websites and have launched kickstarter campaigns in order to fund their animated stories. One of the recent campaigns I supported, “The Legend of Wale Williams” by Roye Okupé, is an attempt to carry the Black narrative into the animation world.

Much of this expression has spread into the creation of several genres of science fiction such as: Cyberfunk, Steamfunk, Afropunk, Afropolitanism and Afrofuturism.



While this is just a quick gloss-over of our contributions in the world of comics and science fiction, I would encourage you to dig deeper and learn all you can with respect to our work in this industry. I hope many of you find this inspiring and chose to investigate the possibility of making your own mark in the world of comics and science fiction. Knowing how to draw is not a requirement, because you can be a great writer and can work with other artists to formulate your story. Just be patient, stay creative and continue to develop your craft.





# IN THE SPIRIT

## DORIS ELLA MAE RHODES

Celebrating the Life of the First Lady of Mt. Olive Baptist Church

*Sunrise: July 28, 1932 - Sunset: September 2, 2015*

*Sister Doris Rhodes, a wife, a mother, the first Lady of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and the Minister's Wives Sister in Christ, was the President of the North Pacific Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows Fellowship for 5 years. When she took over the office in the year of 2008, she stepped in and saved the Fellowship from dispersing. She was my mentor, as I have always said, but she mentored many of us. We loved her. Rest in Heavenly Peace Sister Rhodes. You will always be missed. -Sister Willie L. Davis President of the Spokane Area Minister's Wives and Widows Fellowship*



Doris Ella Mae Clark was born July 28, 1932. She was the youngest girl born to Joe and Gertha Clark in Galveston, Texas. Both of her parents preceded her in death. Lady Rhodes grew up in a very religious family and accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age. She was soon baptized as a member of Progress Baptist Church.

Lady Rhodes attended schools in Galveston School District and graduated from Central High School in 1950. She initially worked as a domestic in the Galveston Bay Hotel industry until she moved to Los Angeles in 1952 with her son Lucious Hicks IV, and became an active member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she served on the Nurses Guild. Her gifts of service and helping hands led her to pursue a career as a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

Lady Rhodes joined other members of the Clark family in organizing the West Point Missionary Baptist Church where she served as a choir member.

In 1955, Lady Rhodes met a young preacher from Chunchula, Alabama in church. A year later, in 1956, she married Rev. A.S. Rhodes in the dining room of their family home. Seven years later, in 1963, she gave birth to her second son, Boris Rhodes. In 1965, Lady Rhodes supported God's call upon her husband's life and they organized the Heavenly

Host Missionary Baptist Church. There she served in all capacities of church ministry, but her main passion, (after "First Lady"), was choir president. A song that she frequently led was "I'm climbing Higher Mountains, Trying To Get Home". Lady Rhodes loved being in the choir and she loved to sing. Some of her favorites were "I'll Fly Away", "Peace Be Still", "What A Friend We Have in Jesus", "Precious Lord", and "Blessed Assurance" to name a few.

In addition to her love for Gospel music, Lady Rhodes also loved singing other forms of music like jazz and blues. Some of her favorite artists were Dinah Washington, Nancy Wilson, Nat King Cole and Shirley Ceasar.

In 1982, Pastor and Lady Rhodes moved to Portland, Oregon to be closer to their two sons, but God had an additional purpose for this couple. Together they worked in ministry throughout the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years. Lady Rhodes served as President of the Ministers Wives Department of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest for two 8-year terms.

Lady Rhodes had a strong mix of spiritual gifts and she was able to encourage, correct and "love on you" all in the same conversation. In her most recent home church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Lady Rhodes started an annual musical fellowship with

participants of the Spokane community churches. The event she named Saturday Night LIVE! It has been anticipated and supported for eleven consecutive years and has touched hundreds of lives.

Lady Rhodes lived a full life. She and her husband traveled to the four corners of America and logged tens of thousands of miles visiting and caring for family members. In addition to her love for traveling and Gospel music, Lady Rhodes also loved baking and cooking huge meals for family and guests, and she had a sweet potato pie that was "off the chain." She loved dressing up from head to toe, and watching comedy shows and television westerns. Most of all, she loved to laugh.

Lady Rhodes was preceded in death by her sister Jessie and two brothers, Bubba and Frank. She leaves to cherish her memories her husband of 59 years, Pastor A.S. Rhodes, two sons, Lucious (Chrystal) and Boris (LaDrena), a sister, Mercidee, two brothers, Wallace and Richard, and a host of family members, in-laws, grandchildren, great grand children, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grand nephews, and countless others, many who affectionally called her "mom".

The Spokane community celebrates the life of First Lady Doris Ella Mae Rhodes and will remember her kindness, generosity and love of the Lord.

## BLACK CATHOLICS ASK POPE FOR APOLOGY

By Monica Clark | Sep. 22, 2015

Reprinted with permission from *The National Catholic Reporter* - <http://ncronline.org>

OAKLAND, CALIF. Members of St. Columba Parish in Oakland, CA will be listening very attentively during Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. to see whether he will apologize to African-Americans for the church's role in the enslavement of people of color.

During his July visit to Bolivia, the pope apologized to indigenous people for "crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America."

The predominately African-American congregation at St. Columba hopes an apology will be extended to them and the entire black community for the racial slavery and structural injustice practiced and/or tolerated by members of the church in the United States, both lay and ordained.

In a letter to the pope earlier this month, Fr. Aidan McAleenan, pastor of St. Columba, asked for an official apology for the church's "acts of racial injustice ... that have stained our history from the founding of our country, through the passing of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's to the present day."

Citing the late Benedictine Fr. Cyprian Davis' book, *The History of Black Catholics in the United States*, McAleenan reminded the pope that "European-American Roman Catholics, including bishops, religious congregations, and laity both owned and sold African slaves."

He also noted that the bishops of the United States resisted calls for the abolition of slavery and that throughout American history the bishops "have seldom, if ever, acknowledged or apologized for this tragic history and continuing complicity in racial injustice."

Writing on behalf of his multicultural congregation, McAleenan said given the "the pain present in the black Catholic family in the United States," an official apology would "place the Church in the path of righting the wrong and would allow African Americans and other people of color to practically experience the practice of mercy within our Church."

"In the end," he wrote, "an official apology would launch the racial healing that is long overdue in U.S. Catholicism and the world we all live and share."

Monica Clark is an NCR West Coast Correspondent. Her email address is [mclark@ncronline.org](mailto:mclark@ncronline.org). To read the article visit: <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/black-catholics-ask-pope-apology>



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

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# CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3 - POSITION 1

## KAREN STRATTON

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

I am running because I can make a difference in local government and for the citizens of Spokane. As a former aide to two Spokane mayors and as a former City employee I know what it takes to get things done in City Hall. As someone who grew up in Spokane and has a varied professional background, I understand the community, our neighborhoods and local government. Moreover, when elected I understand my job is to serve people, not political parties. I am not afraid to take a stand when needed and I believe that all citizens deserve their fair share of representative government --- no matter who they are.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

I am a Spokane native. I grew up in working class family in northeast Spokane. When I received my degree from Eastern Washington University, I was the first member of my family to complete an advance degree. I have worked in the Washington State House of Representatives, spent 14-years in higher education (WSU Spokane & Community Colleges), worked in the private sector managing community relations and philanthropic activities and have served on numerous community boards and commissions. I have been employed by the City of Spokane for the past 10 years and served as an aide to Mayors West and Verner. I was also a Public Information Coordinator for the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and served as a clerk in the Office of the City Clerk. I was appointed to the City Council, September 2014. My knowledge of City government and professional experience in the community make me the best candidate for this job.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I am most proud of my reputation in the community as a dedicated, reasonable and balanced professional. I am also very proud of my parents, two life-long elected officials, who served this community for many years. They are constant reminders that positive change is possible but the responsibility lies within us to do the work. They taught me to listen, be inclusive and compassionate.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

My mother grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation and is a member of the Spokane Tribe. In addition, I have nieces, nephews and cousins that are African American. I have very personal experiences related to diversity and racism in and around this community. I am also a past member of the Spokane Human Rights Commission.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

**Public Safety:** Our neighborhoods are not as safe as they should be. Our efforts should focus on community policing - more officers on the streets and in our neighborhoods working with all communities to provide safe environments. Police officers should be considered partners, not enemies. **Jobs and Training:** We need to attract more family wage jobs to this area. Recently, I supported an ordinance that provides incentives for major developers and businesses to locate in Spokane. For smaller businesses, our focus on centers, corridors and upgrading infrastructure are great incentives for smaller businesses to thrive. I also support job training opportunities, worker retraining and apprenticeship programs. **Human Services:** We need to advocate for the disenfranchised in our community. Providing more low-income housing options and wrap around services can go a long



way in stabilizing the homeless and low income families and individuals. We need to make better connections to mental health programs and other community programs that can lift people out of poverty.

### 6) From the perspective of the City Council, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Absolutely. We need to make a stronger, committed effort to connect with diverse populations. We need to be out in the community, visiting diverse neighborhoods, businesses and organizations. I believe that provides a perspective and foundation for collaboration and understanding. Just as important, people of color are very under-represented on the many city boards and commissions, and we need to encourage them to apply for those positions and make sure they have a full and fair opportunity to contribute in that way.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

Misperceptions and stereotypes. We need to challenge them when they arise, wherever they arise.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

As I mentioned above, the City of Spokane needs more diversity on boards and commissions, and more diversity in its workforce. I have worked with our Civil Service department to encourage a more diverse workforce and fair hiring process. Currently, I am working with Council Member Mumm and other community members on a City task force for race and pay equity.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I hope in ten years Spokane will be known as an accepting, inclusive community that provides opportunities for all people of color.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I am fully committed to racial and gender equity in our community. I also recognize that we have work to do if we are going to provide equal opportunities to all of our citizens. Finally, I truly believe it is our generation that must make positive changes for the next generation. I want this community to be a better place for my nieces, nephews and grandchildren, no matter what color they are.

### 1) What prompted you to run for City Council?

The discussion of increased regulations on small band local businesses ultimately prompted my run for City Council. I am hesitant to impose more policies that either prevent growth and expansion of a business or ultimately encourage businesses to leave our city for more favorable conditions elsewhere. As an architect and business owner I work with all types of industries and I understand many of the barriers to development and business growth that exist within our city. Instead of being stagnant, I want our city to explode with a growth of opportunities for our children and families. I want to foster an environment that breeds diversity in culture, housing opportunities, jobs, and education for generations to come.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

As previously mentioned, I am running for City Council because I believe I am able to draw from a breadth of experience and draw from a unique perspective regarding the job opportunities that available within our city. I was born and raised in NW Spokane and I know my community well. As an Architect and owner of my own architectural firm I work daily with other businesses to help address their needs in order to be successful. I work regularly with various departments within the city and county and have valuable knowledge of city policies and codes and I currently serve as vice-president of the City of Spokane Plan Commission. I have worked first hand on affordable housing projects, manufacturing facilities, offices, healthcare and restaurants and know the needs of these industries and clients well enough to implement policies that support each of them and will allow them to flourish.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I am proud of our city. I believe during difficult times, as a city at large, we rally and support each other regardless of backgrounds, culture or ethnicity. I view our community as being open minded to new ideas and innovation. We have made significant progress in terms of making our city safe and welcoming compared to 20 years ago. However, making progress does not mean the work is done and I am excited to continue to advance and grow our city toward being more inclusive and diverse in culture and all opportunities for our families.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I actively seek to engage and work with people of all backgrounds and cultures. Within my own business I work with a diverse group people, business owners, and community stake holders. I believe as a community we must all work together to hear each other's needs and desires, and work toward the implementation of inclusive policies.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

My first priority will be to address the existing barriers and policies that are in place that make Spokane less desirable for the relocation of wide ranging industries and job opportunities. I also have no interest in increasing the already burdensome regulations on small and local business. I believe by making it easier to do business in Spokane and attracting infill development we will not only increase access to new job opportunities but we will also create vibrant neighborhood districts that are safe and supportive of the adjacent health of the community. My second priority will be to continue to seek and foster a productive and positive relationship with our police department, to ensure we have a diverse police oversight that meets the needs of our residents and that we seek to engage police and our communities together in positive relationship building exercises.

### 6) From the perspective of the City Council, are there ways that



### Spokane could be more inclusive?

The City Council should always seek to have diverse representation regarding city matters, boards, and commissions. We should foster an environment that is inviting to all backgrounds and we should actively reach out to the African American community to encourage participation in various capacities that results in policies that account for diversity and multicultural needs.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

What I have heard to-date from the African-American community is that there are still instances of racism in Spokane and that the community continues to feel they are facing an uphill battle to achieve income equality, access to jobs and opportunities to have a voice in local politics. I see two immediate needs: increasing access to jobs by attracting employers of all types, sizes and industries and also increasing the quality and access to education from grade school through pre-apprenticeship and job training opportunities.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I actively serve on the City of Spokane Plan commission as the vice-president and am working with the City of Spokane to produce a progress report addressing access and achievement of goals aimed at affordable housing. This report also will contain information regarding access to housing for minorities and disproportionate concentrations. Once we have this formal report I will seek input from the African American community as to how to address their personal concerns and concerns found in the report, how to best address greater inclusionary housing and how to best determine possible solutions and policy implementation.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

Over the next 10 years I see Spokane growing to continue to embrace cultural diversity and also actively work to engage all members of our community to contribute to the policy making process in an inclusive and productive manner. As a community we should establish goals for racial and cultural equality and annually review progress toward those goals in a "report card" type format that is conducted by the community at events such as Unity in the Community.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I believe a person of color would perceive my policies as inclusive of all people and all backgrounds. I seek to break down the barriers that currently prohibit access to opportunities for growth and advancement within our city.



# SPOKANE SCHOOL BOARD - POSITION 3

## JERRALL HAYNES

### 1) What prompted you to run for the School Board?

The credit for sparking my interest goes to Jan Baker. Jan is a local activist and member of the Spokane NAACP. After she recommended my candidacy, I spoke to teachers, students that I mentored, and union members and knew that this is the best way I can give back to Spokane.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

Experienced leadership, exemplary project management skills, and a known advocate for the people I serve.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

Since coming to Spokane I have been able to be not only a football coach to Spokane's youth but also become a mentor. Being able to work directly with them is a blessing but being able to work for them would be a gift.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I've been treated very well in Spokane but I have noticed underrepresentation for a lot of subcultures here. Everywhere from the communities of color, to the physically and mentally challenged, there are people making decisions for them.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

Mending the relationship between the school board, teachers, parents and community; Ensure students are adequately prepared to not only enter 4-year institutions, 2-year institutions or technical trade schools depending on their goals; Work as a team with the School board to create and put into place a plan of action that will shrink class sizes while working within the smaller budget that we currently have to work around.

### 6) From the perspective of the School Board, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Periodically there are School Board meetings with little to no attendance. These meetings are where decisions are made and voices can be heard. Getting parents and the community to these meetings are of paramount importance.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African American students in Spokane and what are your thoughts on



### how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

There is an element of underrepresentation. The African American community along with all other communities of color needs to know that their voices are being heard.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

Among my many volunteering endeavors I was a member of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP. In the future I would like to continue my outreach by creating opportunities to reach out to the African American community to have more participation in the schools year round.

### 9) As it relates to diversity in the Spokane School District, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

Spokane is growing. With that there will be more minority students of every background and the Spokane Public School system needs to create a culture as diverse as its people. It goes beyond what we teach but how we celebrate our differences. The School Board is in a unique position to help.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I understand the issues minorities face from a first hand perspective. What I bring to the table isn't a sympathetic understanding of problems faced but a real world understanding with real world solutions.

## ROCKY TREPPIEDI

### 1) What prompted you to run for the School Board?

I first ran for the school board in 1995 (when my kids were in school) because I was concerned about the district's failure to challenge and support each and every student. The district still fails to do that and I still have the passion and drive to change that culture (while my grandchildren are in school), one day at a time. (This is a problem in public education all across America, not just Spokane.)

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

Experience. I have almost 20 years of experience on the school board and 40 years as a lawyer devoted to public service. I've served as a volunteer and board member of several youth and charitable programs. I've worked hard and learned much and dedicate my efforts to help others. My experience and drive has lead the district to establish full-day kindergarten in each of our elementary schools, has expanded the school day by 30 minutes each day (a total of 15 extra days of instruction each year), and has helped put the district in position to create the best programs possible for our students.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I am most proud of my family. Marianne and I have been married 41 years and have raised 3 children who are now married and raising their own families. We have 6 grandchildren; our 7th is due in December. Each of our children and their spouses volunteer in the community. They make us proud every day.

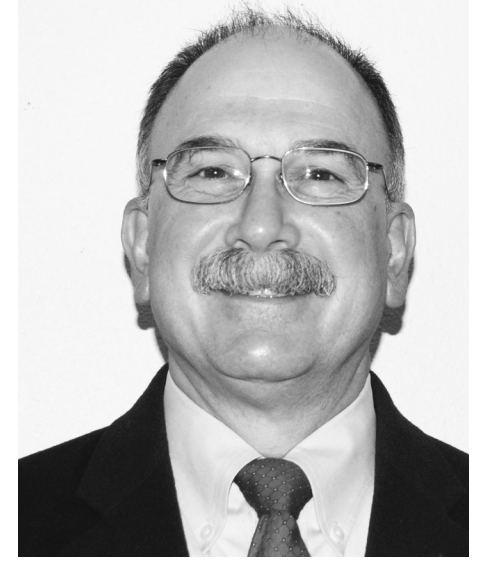
### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I work with diversity every day. I grew up in the melting pot of New York City. I worked in a poverty law program for 5 years at the beginning of my career, then served on its board for several more. The district's student population becomes more diverse each year of my 20 years of service. As an Administrative Law Judge I handle cases involving people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and diverse cultures every day.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

Two of the biggest priorities are to strengthen the foundation in grades K-3, and to intensify support for students as they enter and attend high school. I've been focused on these issues during my service. In elementary school, I've championed full day kindergarten, the extended school day in elementary school (which began this school year) and smaller class size (we still need additional financial support from the state on this point). In high school, we need to continue to provide each student with support and challenging classes so they are prepared for the work force, technical school, or a 2 or 4 year college degree. Stronger guidance counselling is being developed. In middle school, we need to strengthen the ability of students to be ready for the challenges of high school. More individualized support for each student is the key.

### 6) From the perspective of the School Board, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclu-



### sive?

Yes. The best way to be more inclusive is recognize opportunities for input from citizens, and then open your organization to recruit and receive that input from as many people as you can. Go to community leaders, the parents and families of students, and anyone who has an interest in helping. Create opportunities for involvement.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African American students in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

All people – all students – face significant daily challenges. The basic necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter) come first; school is secondary. But, school offers a safe haven for children and hope for their future. Our district tries to help students, their families, and the community in general by creating and maintaining supportive relationships. The biggest challenge for African American students is the same as all other students: how do we keep each student interested and engaged in school so that each child has the best opportunity to become a successful adult.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

One person at a time. Every child has special interests and needs. I am a good listener and advocate for each child and each part of our community. As a board member I have always sought and welcomed collaborative efforts to address any issue. The main ground rule is to be respectful and responsive. As a board member it is often more important to keep your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut so that you can learn and understand what is of concern to citizens, and then we can all be in better position to address things.

### 9) As it relates to diversity in the Spokane School District, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

Spokane becomes more diverse every year. We are a designated refugee center. Like the rest of America, the racial, ethnic and cultural mix will become more diversified.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I care about each of their children and want to provide the best school system and strongest support for each child so they can become successful adults, the pride of their family.

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# SPOKANE SCHOOL BOARD - POSITION 4

## PATRICIA KIENHOLZ

### 1) What prompted you to run for the School Board?

Uncontested position and people wanted a different viewpoint represented. I'm committed to children's rights advocacy, largely because of my education in Spokane Public Schools (SPS). My family has been in Spokane for six generations. I know what's right and wrong in the district from living it, by being a professional trying to fix it. My experience in community volunteerism in arts and education is very important for the work of director. My approach is balancing action and accountability with flexibility. I agreed to run, because I'd followed our failing public school math averages since working in higher education for 5-years (SFCC chemistry department). It's obvious many students are owed a better education in literacy and math. We need a clear articulation of what it means to be "career ready." Whether or not students want to attend trade/technical schools or college/university, we're legally responsible for their academic excellence all through k-12, and we aren't fully meeting that obligation.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate.

1) Experience: I encourage others to attend SPS, am a SPS k-12 graduate ('87), am a single mother of two, both my children are fourth generation SPS k-12 students. I volunteered in their classrooms for 4 years, understand SPS as a parent, volunteer and professional. My children took part in school choice options (Tessera, Technology Alliance). 2) Community: I'm a nonprofit professional committed to the advancement of children. The work I do creates a dialogue between stakeholders, informs the public, brings forward standpoints of the most vulnerable in our society, and makes a difference. 3) I'm an experienced director. Presently, overseeing a combined \$20MM of state and federal funds, I work with state and federal agencies tasked with oversight of the public school budget system including Office of Financial Management and Department of Enterprise Services.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I'm most proud of my children, who succeeded living in an urban environment, were raised by a single parent, didn't fit into anyone's limited definition of "normal," and they care about others. I'm also proud of the people around me who overcome adversity, who put their ethics before their friendships, their politics, or their desires.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I welcome diversity and it's a way of life. Diversity is many things, broader than the differences of a particular group. Poverty, religion, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender, etc. all contribute to understanding diversity. We have a mixed ethnicity family--African Americans, Latinos, Filipinos, Arabs, Eastern European Jewish, Panamanians, Cubans, and Native Americans. I'm mindful of White privilege. Living in Los Angeles for 10-years was beneficial to me. I brought home a solid commitment to anti-elitism that was part of our curriculum at USC. I'm informed by the public policy work I do, it's data-analytics centered, but I listen to family, friends, and community voices in the Black community to stay realistic about Black cultural experiences. I tutor an African American student, have African American nieces and nephews, and am very concerned about the extent minority students are tracked away from advanced placement courses, about school discipline and suspension/expulsion policies applied to unassigned (non-serious) offenses, and cultural currency. Continuity for graduation is vital, but it's more than keeping kids in school, it's about seriously addressing obstacles preventing students from accessing an excellent education while they're in school, about recognizing special needs throughout k-12, and mentoring for real life.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

My top priorities are: (1) Minding the opportunity gap, especially closing the remedial course gap for students entering college, required to take college-offered remedial courses in mathematics and English; (2) improving existing programming, and providing for special needs, STEM, arts integration, English as a second language, and our struggling students; (3) school safety; (4) workforce development. I've examined current district structure through conversations with our Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, CEO and the state Office of Superintendent CEO, attended an Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight & Accountability Committee forum, addressing current legislative action related to our duty to close the opportunity gap, and read legislative recommendations related to compensation as they're updated. You can't do this job without understanding the law and policies that create outcomes for our students. As an experienced policy researcher I know how to get there, and I know how to show other people the way.

### 6) From the perspective of the School Board, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?



Yes. We need to expand collaboration from the community. Beyond the usual leaders, we need to draw out voices of those not being heard -- those in business, higher education, the community, churches, and especially parents and students. Citizen's advisory committees can recommend ways the board can be more inclusive, and may be able to help with crises that arise. I've been asked to address, "What do the data show about ethnic minorities at various schools in Spokane -- are they concentrated in certain schools and if so, do these schools have sufficient funding?" "Are racial minorities who are not low-income being heard, and are their needs being met?" "Is there a gap between meeting the needs of low-income students who are minorities and meeting the needs of minorities who are not low income?" "Are we adequately addressing the school-to-prison pipeline, and doing everything to stop it?"

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African American students in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

The three biggest challenges I see facing African American students in Spokane are: (1) Ensuring a culturally relevant environment with a sense of belonging and inclusion when the ratio is clearly disparate; ensuring decisions and choices do not always follow the majority, and ensuring minorities have input into decisions about policy; creating an environment that encourages full participation and viewpoints that may not be consistent with the majority. (2) Lack of available affordable housing in neighborhoods where families want student(s) to attend school. (3) The school-to-prison-pipeline whereby a "Black child born in 2011 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in [their] lifetime, and a Latino child has a 1 in 6 chance of going to prison in [their] lifetime." If we address communication difficulties in struggling and at-risk children, we will stop criminalizing them, we will stop giving them unwarranted mental diagnoses, we will stop ignoring their needs, and we will actually help, instead of continuing a feedback loop that harms children.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I've worked with members of the African American community as an activist for women's and children's rights, as AIDS researcher, paraeducator, family and extended family member, mentor, and care-giver, in sports, in education, in my work with the homeless community, remotely through work on the Affordable Housing and Real Estate Portfolio Committee for the City of Spokane. Most of my current work focuses on women and children, homelessness, the arts and education, the tribes. Yes, I do have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts.

### 9) As it relates to diversity in the Spokane School District, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I hope to see Spokane Public Schools incorporate more curricula of African American history (and tribal contemporary culture and history), increase graduation rates for Black students, reduced incidents of micro-aggression faced by Black students, and professional development in special education and cultural currency. Washington expects an increase of Latino students, with a slight increase in Black and Asian students, a decrease in White students.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I hope to "move the needle" for Spokane students. Three things people need to know about voting for school board: (1) A school board is a checks and balances of professional educators and education stakeholders. (2) Spokane Public Schools biennium budget is \$360+MM. (3) Education makes up 48% of our state budget. I believe people should make informed decisions, vote their conscience free from undue influence, and especially VOTE. Your vote matters!

## PAUL SCHNEIDER

### 1) What prompted you to run for the School Board?

After 18 years in the classroom I felt my experience and passion to serve kids could be an asset to our community. Also, I think the current board is often perceived as aloof and inaccessible to both the professionals they serve and more importantly to the broader Spokane community. I would like to change this perception and make this school board truly accessible to our constituents.

### 2) Highlight 3-4 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

With 18 years in the classroom and numerous leadership roles in school systems, I understand students, teachers, schools and districts. I have found common sense and pragmatic solutions to the many issues our students and their families face. Further, I don't come to this position with a rigid ideological agenda. Rather, I'm here to serve our students, their families, and the community.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

I'm most proud first to be a husband and father. I've got "skin in the game" as my own daughters have benefitted from their education in Spokane Schools. Beyond this, I'm proud of my record as a teacher. I have worked tirelessly for years to help my students achieve beyond what they thought possible and think I have largely succeeded in this work.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

As a Spokane native, I've watched this community change dramatically over time. Our community is diverse on many levels ranging from race and ethnicity to socioeconomic and linguistic diversity. Professionally, I serve a diverse student population in my own school and my daughter, adopted from Ethiopia, has taught me a great many lessons about privilege and challenges that come with being a student of color in a largely white district.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

I think we need to work hard to address the 15% of our kids who are not on track to graduate on time. We need to use interventions that range from early childhood programs that help level the playing field for kids and families who may not be fully prepared for school. We also owe the kids in our schools who are struggling, our best work. There are a host of programs from credit retrieval, to AVID, to possibly flex-scheduling that could be used to help kids get back on track. In addition, I would like our district to work more closely with our community resources to support students and their families beyond the scope of the school wall and school day. I think that restoring trust between our board and the Spokane Education Association will be critical to avoid further contract disputes. We have a great community that will willingly step up for our kids. We need to be willing to reach out and engage those resources.

### 6) From the perspective of the School Board, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

The Board has an obligation to reach out to our community in a more transparent and accessible way. For too long the work of the board has been perceived as insular and intimidating. I would like to see our board meetings move into the schools so that our community can better access us. We also need to form more deliberate community bridges. From "The Zone" project in the Hillyard area to the Scratch Food program in our title schools, we have tremendous opportunities to bring our community into our schools and our schools to our community. I hope that we can create more mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for ALL kids, not just those attending 4 year college and I think that in doing this bridge building we will be more inclusive. Finally, I think that Spokane Schools need to prioritize the recruitment and retention of professionals who reflect our student bodies. I want my daughter to have women and men who look like her to be mentors and role models in her life.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African American students in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

I think our African American students have a couple of challenges specifically. First, helping to create cultural competency among our pro-



fessionals when working especially with young African American boys is critical. The ways in which teacher-student interactions begin to shift when our boys reach about the 4th grade, have important implications for our kids. Too often an adversarial relationship develops and kids get labelled as "trouble." We need to begin constructive conversations that help change that dynamic. Second, and this happens beyond Spokane, is suspension rates. Students of color, especially boys, are more likely to face out-of-school suspension at rates much higher than their white counterparts. This is a systemic issue that will require professional development for our administrative and teaching staff. Finally, we need to work hard to encourage African American boys and girls into programs and courses where they are currently under-represented. This includes STEM programs and AP in particular.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

As a classroom teacher, I have the privilege of working with students and families from all walks of life. I have and will continue to engage leaders around the community to help serve our kids. There is a new generation of African American leaders around the Spokane area who have the experience, energy and ideas to help shape the future of our schools. As a board member I would love to bring these leaders to the table. I often tell voters that I won't pretend to have all the answers but what I will promise is a seat at the table. That's what I want to build, a bigger, more inclusive table. Whether it's getting input on the recruitment and retention of African American teachers, administrators or classified staff, I think our community members can help shape our decisions. In addition, I'm not afraid to engage in tough dialogue about our kids. Race continues to challenge our community in many ways but pretending that it doesn't is unhelpful. I want to encourage meaningful dialogue and growth among our professionals, kids and community. Again, our table needs to get bigger and we need to invite stakeholders to it.

### 9) As it relates to diversity in the Spokane School District, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

I see a district that will reflect our changing community. I see a district that more fully understands the success and challenges of our varied population groups. One example is our African American community. We have a vibrant and growing middle class and upper middle class who can provide an important bridge with our growing immigrant population and our ever changing student population. I see tremendous opportunities to diversify our staff in our buildings well. Our professionals inspire our kids every day and our kids should be reflected in our staff. Finally, I hope that Spokane Schools will continue to grow and learn as a system about the promise and challenges our students and their families bring to our schools.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

Because in me, they will find that I am a tireless advocate for the success of their children. Because in me, they will find that I understand too many of our families don't start on a level playing field and deserve our best efforts to build a more equitable system of education. Because in me, they will find a white man who understands privilege and will work hard to confront and educate people about it. Because in me, you will find a teacher, father and husband who wants his children (my own and yours) to live to their potentials, dream big and achieve what their dreams allow.



# OUR VOICES

## N.W.A. STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON

“You are now about to witness the strength of street knowledge!”

### *This Is Where I'm Coming From*

By Phillip Tyler

Well the summer movie season is over and so is my angst about one movie in particular. With the recent release of *Straight Out of Compton* and the actions/responses by some theaters and law enforcement, I can't help but see art imitating life.

For those that may not know or who are burying their heads in the sand, theaters and law enforcement were partnering to add additional security at the screenings. Why? Because it's a black movie about the black experience/plight that played out 20 years ago and unfortunately and tragically, is resurfacing today through various troubling police interactions.

It is funny, but sad, how the political right and dare I say some white conservatives have rallied behind the thought that if participants were armed during recent high-profile mass shootings, either in theaters or for god-sake

churches, the tragedies would have been averted.

Now, interestingly enough though, they want police in the theaters for *Straight Out of Compton* because they are prejudging potential audiences.

They believe the violence on-screen will precipitate violence in theaters. They believe the audiences [read black people] may be carrying guns or perhaps even be gangsters themselves.

It seems the second amendment they so fervently argue for, must only apply to white people.

Case in point: Did they believe violence would erupt at *Batman*, which tragically it did? But the main characters were white and, of course, the audience would be expected to be white law abiding citizens. *Mission Impossible* had the biggest opening this summer and had some of the biggest



violence sequences as well. But alas, its main character was white...and by the way, so was the villain. No added security presence, no partnering with police. Say what!?

I was a huge fan of NWA and a huge fan of the United States of America at the

time. I was an enlisted member of the United States Air Force and a Law Enforcement Specialist no less. I also knew several Airmen and citizens, of various ethnicities, genders and ages, that were fans as well. I was not a gangster and only carried a weapon while on-duty. I would venture to say that a majority of the audience for the movie will be of various ethnicities as well.

Is this a push-back against “black lives matter”? I mean if there is any chance of white people being injured, then let's add security, because “white lives matter”...more. Or perhaps, as Polly-

annaish as it may be, they are finally hoping to protect black lives after a seemingly lack of protection this year at the hands, on occasion, by those charged to protect us.

To remind you, the recent mass shootings at theaters and churches were perpetrated by white men.

Perhaps we could all learn from the opening stanza of N.W.A.s album, “You are now about to witness the strength of street knowledge!” What's happening in the streets should not be ignored or minimized.

In corporate America, CEO's wanting to learn the pulse of their business, go to the ground level. Well perhaps our politicians and protectors should go to the ground level as well...and do it before and not after, as some sort of olive branch.

I'm not talking about NWA, I'm talking about the old school MWA...*management by walking around*. Getting in touch with your people, your community works. You just have to try it.

*Phillip Tyler is President of Spokane based Wisdom In Words.*

## WHO GETS DUE PROCESS - BLAKE OR FRASCATORE?

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Is Patrick Lynch, president of the New York Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, obliged to defend his members even when they are wrong? The open letter posted on the PBA website and printed in the New York Daily News lacks credibility and contributes to the fractured state of police-community relations. He has cautioned the media, and others, about rushing to judgment of James Frascatore, the walking assault machine that tackled former tennis star James Blake, put his knee to Blake's back, and then cuffed him. This was captured by a security camera; the footage is ubiquitous online. Lynch says, “no one should ever jump to an uninformed conclusion based on a few seconds of video”.

Lynch makes every excuse that he can for Frascatore, and chides “pundits and editorial writers” because “they have never faced the dangers that police officers routinely do”. Comments about Blake's false arrest and further cover-up are “irresponsible, unjust, and un-American”. Lynch says Frascatore deserves “due process, not summary professional execution called for by editorial writers”.

Due process is defined as the legal requirement that the state must respect all the legal rights due to a person. When did James Blake get due process?

Frascatore tackled Blake with neither provocation nor even conversation. Either Lynch didn't watch the video or he doesn't care that there is a pugilistic police officer that has no regard for due process when he interacts with the public.

Frascatore should have been history in the NYPD some time ago. He has only been part of the NYPD for four years, yet five complaints against him have been filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). All of these complaints involve the excessive use of force. Frascatore is fast with his fists (he is accused of punching people in the head, the mouth, and in the torso); tragedy would be compounded if he were using a gun.



For all of Frascatore's abuse of power, it took his assault of Blake to get him desk duty. Blake has very reasonably called for Frascatore's firing. But loudmouth Lynch (consider his comments in the wake of Eric Garner's murder) has talked himself onto a limb with his passionate, but baseless defense of a police “officer”.

If there were due process, Frascatore would have been arrested for assaulting Blake. But police officers accused of wrongdoing hide behind their uniforms and never pay for their crimes. If there were due process, a man with five complaints before the CCRB would have been put on desk duty, if not suspended or fired, some time ago.

The New York Daily News reported on a 2013 incident where Frascatore and two others followed bicyclist Warren Diggs home. Once there they demanded identification from him but proceeded to punch in the head and pummel all over his body -- before he could retrieve his ID.

Diggs' significant other saw part of the fracas and began recording it. She asked officers for their names and badge

numbers; two complied but Frascatore refused. When Nafeesah Hines went to move Diggs' bicycle from the sidewalk and into their home, she was told that she was tampering with evidence and was arrested. The Civilian Complaint Review Board found inconsistencies between Frascatore's statements and the recording Hines made. They recommended, “retraining” Frascatore. Ms. Hines also sued the city for false arrest and settled out of court. Warren Diggs still has a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city.

The Diggs case reveals Frascatore as an accomplished liar who doesn't mind breaking the rules. Just as there was an attempt to cover up the Blake arrest, there was also an attempt to justify the brutal assault of Warren Diggs and the false arrest of Nafeesah Hines. Due process, Patrick Lynch?

As Blake has so gracefully said, all police officers are not like Frascatore. He declined to accuse the NYPD, just the out-of-control officer. He accepted the apologies of the Police Commissioner and the Mayor. But he insists that something must be done about excessive force, and he has indicated that he might pursue a lawsuit otherwise.

The NYPD says they have spent millions on training and retraining. Did Frascatore ever get the training the CCRB recommended? Why not monitor those officers who have been “retrained” to see if they have changed their ways? Why not prioritize investigation of those with repeat complaints so that bad apples like Frascatore are terminated before they do more damage?

Patrick Lynch does his members a disservice when he excuses the behavior of officers like James Frascatore, whose only due process should move him out of the NYPD. Due process means arresting Frascatore for assaulting James Blake.

*Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC. She can be reached at [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com)*



# OUR VOICES

## SPECTATOR POLITICS

By James Clingman

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Here is something to think about as we watch the political circus that is currently dominating the news: Black people are nowhere to be found in the real action, nowhere to be found in determining the candidates from which we will eventually choose to compete for the Presidency, and nowhere to be found in the debate questions or answers. We are merely watching from the balcony, as we had to do back in the 1950's in segregated theaters and churches that relegated Black people to the rear of the building. We were also told to be quiet, especially in the churches, way back when.

All Black folks are doing right now is watching. Yeah we talk a lot, from our vantage point in the peanut gallery, but we have absolutely zero skin in the political game at this point, which means we lack self-determination in the political process. Yes, we have the individual choice to vote, but that's about it, y'all, and even in that act, we will only be choosing between the decisions that others have made.

Have you ever wondered why two small states, Iowa and New Hampshire, have so much impact on the national election? Is it simply because they are the first two states to conduct caucuses and primaries every Presidential election year? Is it because they have such a large number of electoral

votes? Even though some candidates who win those states do not always get their party's nomination, these two states are held up as the political "trend-makers" and benchmarks for a candidate's success. That's why they all flock to those two little states long before the election really begins.

For all of you critical thinkers out there, try these stats on for size: Iowa is 91 percent White and 2 percent Black; it has 6 electoral votes. New Hampshire is 93 percent White and 1 percent Black, with 4 electoral votes. There are 538 electoral votes among the states, 270 of which are needed to win the Presidency of the United States. I ask again, why are Iowa and New Hampshire so important in the scheme of things?

And I reemphasize that Black folks, comprising a grand total of 3 percent of the total population of these two small states, have absolutely no influence, not to mention power, in what is taking place right now in the political arena. We are relegated to being spectators if we care to watch this current show; it is a rerun, so many of



us are not interested anyway.

By the time you read this article the séance for Ronald Reagan, known as the Republican debate, will have taken place at the Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

You remember that famous city, right? It's the place where the White cops who beat Rodney King within inches of his life were declared not guilty. Of the 500 there, I saw just five Black people in the seats at the CNN Debate. Another insult to Black voters, or another indication of political impotence?

We are just spectators, brothers and sisters, watching the Dems and Repubs race toward the finish line in November 2016. They will put on a great show for us though, as they invoke Rosa Parks' name and cite the sanctity of the Black vote. Each party will try to convince us that it can and will "take care of us" because God knows we can't take care of ourselves. Then, in January 2017, Black people will settle in, once again relegated to their plantation of "choice" for four more years, without hav-

ing gotten one ounce of quo for our quid. My article, "Black Political Dilemma" (2014), posed the possibility of Ben Carson running against Hillary Clinton for President. Some folks responded by saying, "That will never happen." "You're crazy, Jim," and "Carson will never be nominated." Some folks even laughed at the question, "What will Black people do if that happens?" Well, you may want to stay tuned.

Black people have dug ourselves a deep political hole, and now we must figure out how to get out of it. It really doesn't matter who wins the highest office in the land, Blacks will be in the same relative position as we have been under a Black President for the last seven years. In other words, we ain't got nothin' comin'. Only we can save us, not Hillary, Carson, Sanders, or Trump.

Because we have tried to play politics without having a strong economic base, we have become impotent and irrelevant. Reflect on the words of T. Thomas Fortune, Journalist and co-founder of the National Negro Business League: "No people ever became great and prosperous by devoting their infant energies to politics. We were literally born into political responsibility before we had mastered the economic conditions which underlie these duties."

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## BEN CARSON FIGHTS DONALD TRUMP FOR WHITE SUPREMACIST VOTE

By David A. Love, JD

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With his cold and callous attack on Muslim Americans, Ben Carson is competing with Donald Trump for the xenophobic, Islamophobic, white supremacist vote.

This is a shameful way for a black man to conduct himself, though it is par for the course when you're running for president in the Republican primaries.

The neurosurgeon turned presidential candidate created a firestorm on NBC's Meet The Press this past Sunday when Chuck Todd asked Carson if one's faith should matter to voters. Carson responded, "Well, I guess it depends on what that faith is."

When Todd asked him to clarify if he thinks Islam is "consistent with the Constitution," Carson said, "No, I do not. I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation."

Carson isn't backing down from his comments, although he offered, in a backhanded way, that he can support a Muslim who renounces their faith and denounces

Sharia law. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has called on Carson to drop out of the race. "Mr. Carson clearly does not understand or care about the Constitution, which states that 'no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office,'" said Nihad Awad, CAIR National Executive Director. "We call on our nation's political leaders - across the political spectrum - to repudiate these unconstitutional and un-American statements and for Mr. Carson to withdraw from the presidential race."

How hypocritical for people such as Carson to claim to support "religious liberty" when they really had no one else but Christians in mind. Carson, Trump and others are able to get away with this because of the widespread Islamophobia in this country, conditions which would cause a 14-year-old Sudanese-American science geek to be whisked away in handcuffs for bringing a homemade clock to school.



And besides, the Republican base likes it that way. For Birthers in the age of Obama, the word "Muslim" has served as a stand in for the n-word, the "other," the "foreigner" and the "un-American" president himself. This, in a nation where some disaffected whites - uneasy about the increasing amount of color they are witnessing in America - want their country back, and restored to its original whiteness. That Carson would stoop so low as to do the bidding of white supremacists

tells us how far that party has gone off the deep end.

Ben Carson spits in the face of millions of Muslim Americans as he tells this community they are not American enough to lead the nation. In effect, he is calling them the enemy and proclaiming that they do not belong here, that they need not apply. Also worth noting is that while all people should be offended by the doctor's statements, Carson also offends a third or so of Muslim Americans who are also African-American. I immediately think of beloved members of our community such as Muhammad Ali and Kareem Abdul Jabbar - who said that if Isis is representative of Islam, then the Klan is representative of Christianity. And I think of Reps. Keith Ellison and André Carson, respected members of Congress.

Most of all, when I think of the legacy of African-American Muslims, I think of one of my heroes, a fallen leader named Malcolm X. Malcolm would have had choice words for Carson, who, along with Donald Trump, has assumed

the mantle of Islamophobia for the rabid white base of the Republican Party:

"When the master would be sick, the house Negro identified himself so much with his master he'd say, 'What's the matter boss, we sick?'" His master's pain was his pain. And it hurt him more for his master to be sick than for him to be sick himself. When the house started burning down, that type of Negro would fight harder to put the master's house out than the master himself would."

It seems Ben Carson was biding his time before he made his infamous Muslim comment. As candidates such as Rick Perry and Scott Walker fall by the wayside, Carson has found a new purpose in order to gain recognition, but at the expense of the Muslim community. He is a big disappointment.

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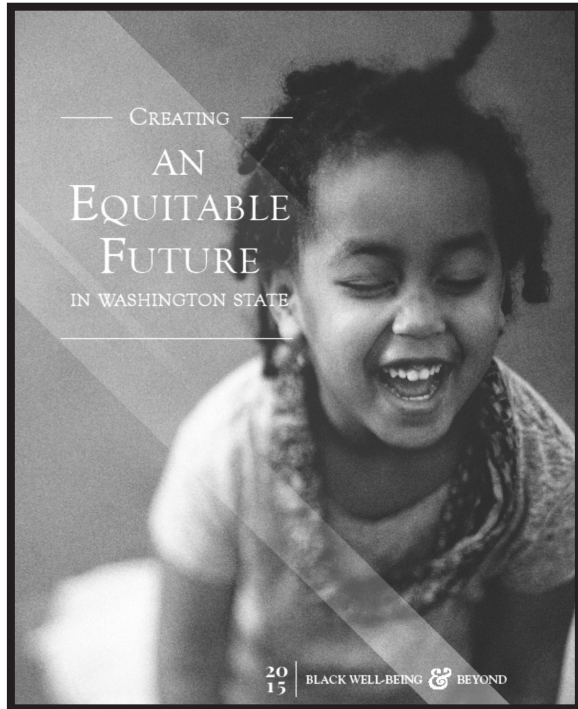
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# THE STATE OF BLACK WASHINGTON (PT. 6)

Presented by the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, African American Leadership Forum and Centerstone

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: ONLY ONE BLACK LEGISLATOR OUT OF 147



On March 30, 2015, the results were released from the study "Creating an Equitable Future for Black Washingtonians." Over the next several months, The Black Lens will address each one of the focus areas through highlights of the report. This month the focus is on: **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

A representative and well-functioning democracy depends on the people it serves making their voices heard and taking action on their own behalf. When communities have an equal opportunity to engage in the decision-making processes that affect their daily lives, problems are more likely to be solved, communities are more likely to thrive, and public policies are more likely to succeed.

A history of discrimination, combined with the effects of lower economic and educational opportunities, has kept Black people from being equally represented at all levels of decision making.

Obstacles to equity in civic engagement for Blacks in Washington State include wealth inequality, the campaign finance system, and voter disenfranchisement. Beyond voting, a lack of social and economic resources puts Black people at a significant disadvantage in a political system influenced so heavily by money, which may discourage, or outright prevent, Black people from running for office.

How campaigns are financed significantly hinders Black representation in government, and is a key area where reform is needed. Greater representation in government, as well as in the private and nonprofit sectors, can lead to more racially just decision making, but a larger conversation about the root causes creating such large gaps in wealth and power is needed to ensure equity in policymaking moving forward.

In Washington state, Black people are less likely to be registered to vote. Among eligible Black voters, 68 percent are registered compared to the state rate of 83 percent. Blacks also have almost no representation in the State Legislature. The lack of the Black community's access and influence in politics and policymaking is evident when there is just one Black legislator out of 147 total in our State Legislature.

In Washington state, legislators who are majority white, male, and older are making decisions for a rapidly diversifying electorate that looks much different than them. A political system that fails to guarantee equal representation for people from all social and economic backgrounds is harmful to civic engagement.

The full report is available online at: [http://center-stone.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOBW\\_report\\_r701\\_Final\\_032515\\_LowRes\\_spreads.pdf](http://center-stone.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOBW_report_r701_Final_032515_LowRes_spreads.pdf)

## DAVID CONDON *Continued from Page 1*

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

When I was able to reach out to the Zehm family, apologize to them on behalf of the citizens of Spokane for the way Otto Zehm died, and to settle the lawsuit with them – those were important and moving actions. As Mayor, I followed that up by appointing an independent Use of Force Commission that has reformed the way police in our city operate and has reduced the use of force in our community, and at the same time we have reduced crime.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I have worked hard to take into consideration people's diverse backgrounds when shaping city policy. As mayor, I have the privilege of working with every stakeholder group in our richly diverse community. I am proud to be the first mayor to appoint a Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs in Spokane and that the city now celebrates and promotes National Heritage Months.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

Spokane needs more well-paying jobs. We need to attract new businesses here and encourage existing employers to grow and expand in the City. The City of Spokane must do its part – improving streets and streamlining permitting - while businesses need to ensure all workers are given fair wages and the respect they deserve. Spokane will continue to work to build trust in our police department and work to have a police force that upholds our values and keeps neighborhoods safe. We have made great progress and the White House recognized our city earlier this year for our public safety reforms. Helping the most vulnerable in our city find a way out of poverty, and easing the burdens on those with fewer opportunities will be another key priority.

### 6) From the perspective of Mayor, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Not everyone was born with the same advantages that I had. I've worked hard my whole life, but I was blessed with a successful father and a strong, loving family. As much as we can, we need to ensure that those who did not have these advantages still have opportunities to live without violence, to get a good education, to advance in their jobs and careers. At City Hall, we work to ensure our top administrators

are a diverse group and that people are able to advance without discrimination.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

One of the challenges I see is the under representation of African Americans in our community. At the City we are spearheading an initiative to recruit African Americans from here, and more diverse cities, to participate in our Civil Service process. We want to not only recruit, but retain African Americans to help develop a larger professional network in Spokane.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I regularly reach out to the African American community for representation on our commissions and boards, and work closely with the Faith Alliance. We are also developing a training curriculum for our police offices on cultural competency. I meet monthly with the NAACP, and personally, my wife and I have financially supported and attended the Freedom Fund Banquet. I will continue to work collaboratively as we develop training for our law enforcement, workforce readiness programs, and reach out to the African American community for Civil Service opportunities at the City.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

As Spokane grows, and attracts more jobs, it is going to also grow more diverse – enriching our city culturally. I'd like to see Spokane pass a tipping point where it is no longer an overwhelmingly white city, but one that has many different races, religions, and backgrounds.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I have a proven record of leading an inclusive administration that is making efforts to grow a diverse community. I will continue to engage our minority communities as we build a vision for our city together.

## SHAR LICHTY *Continued from Page 1*

I have years of experience with leadership development which provides me with the skills to truly lead our city-working alongside others and providing opportunities for their leadership development and advancement.

### 3) What is something that you are most proud of and why?

Being the first in my family to obtain a college degree. I went back to school at the age of 39, received my AA from Spokane Community College with honors, and my Bachelors in Social Work with a minor in Africana Studies, also with honors. My experiences at both schools and my education directly led to my work for social justice issues and the positive policy changes I have been honored to be a part of.

### 4) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

Having grown up in Southern California in a very diverse community, Spokane's lack of diversity was a bit of a culture shock for me when I moved here 20 years ago. In recent years, I have seen some progress and increased diversity but would like to see more. I believe that in order to have a more diverse community we need to make our community more welcoming to diverse populations. This is one of the areas I intend to focus on during my term(s) as mayor.

### 5) List 2-3 of your priorities if you get elected and how you plan to accomplish them?

Increased accessibility, transparency, and leadership to the Office of Mayor- I will hold monthly town halls rotating between the Community Centers to provide access for some of our most vulnerable communities to address the mayor with their concerns, etc. My leadership style is as servant leader, I am here to serve our community and work with all of the people impacted by an issue to come to the best resolution possible. I will keep the Council and public aware of major decisions that affect them, bring transparency to selection processes for key positions i.e. the Ombudsman and Police Chief. Public safety- properly funding our fire and police departments to keep our communities and first responders safe and provide proper training opportunities and equipment. Additionally, I will bring the City into compliance with the City Charter which mandates the Office of Police Ombudsman have independent investigative authority. Economic development- I will support neighborhood revitalization efforts to bring economic growth and build a strong, local economy. I will support worker's rights including a higher minimum wage, pay equity, paid sick and safe leave, and city wide smart hiring. When working families are doing better they spend more and thus help build a strong, local economy. We all do better, when we all do better.

### 6) From the perspective of Mayor, are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Yes. The city should be leading the way on creating a more inclusive community in Spokane. This includes applying a racial equity lens to city policies and making changes where institutional racism is creating disproportional outcomes to communities of color. In my 8 year plan, I will be working to create a department similar to Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative. This department would lead racial equity trainings, analyze city policies with a racial equity lens, and propose policy changes to address disproportional outcomes for communities of color and other marginalized populations. I will begin by requiring all city employees, including police and fire, to participate in the training all Seattle city employees went through, Race: the Power of an Illusion.

### 7) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how the challenge(s) could be addressed?

Spokane has a racist history from George Wright's attempted genocide of local indigenous people to its ties to the Aryan nation, we have made progress but still have a way to go. African Americans (and all communities of color) still face the residual effects of this history (and our nation's) with disparities in education, criminal justice, and employment as well as proposed racist legislation and racially motivated hate crimes. Public education, support of organizations led by communities of color, addressing racial disparities in education, criminal justice, and employment, standing up against all racist policies and acts of hate, and creating a more welcoming community for people of color are some of the things we need to do to increase racial diversity in Spokane.

### 8) In your current role, how have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I began my work for racial equity while attending SCC in 2006. I was trained by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a trainer for their Stop the Hate workshop and presented to several groups on campus. Since then, I received my minor in Africana Studies in part to better understand the history of racism in our country and the challenges African Americans continue to face on a daily basis. Since graduation, I have continued to work for racial equity through supporting communities of color on issues they lead on, working in collaboration with communities of color on issues we both work on, becoming a member of the NAACP, joining the NAACP Political Action Committee, attending actions and rallies to stand against racially motivated hate crimes, recognize that communities of color should always lead on issues they are disproportionately affected by, became a trainer for Race: the Power of an Illusion, and continue to educate myself on issues of race and institutional racism. I will continue these same efforts, work collaboratively with communities of color to address racial disparities, require all city employees to attend Race: the Power of an Illusion workshop, and work to implement a Race & Social Justice Initiative at the City.

### 9) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years?

My hope is to see a more welcoming community for people of color, a reduction of racial disparities, and a community where all of us can feel safe and prosper resulting in a more racially diverse community. I will work to bring us closer to realizing this hope.

### 10) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I have a history that shows my commitment to racial equity and addressing policies of institutional racism that create the disparities that people of color face every day. I acknowledge the privilege I have as a white woman and firmly believe that privilege compels me to work as an ally to move us toward equitable opportunities and outcomes. Since beginning my work on racial and social justice issues I have been blessed with two bi-racial granddaughters. I have witnessed the racial profiling their father faces on a regular basis and am painfully aware of the fact that the one granddaughter who passes as white will be treated differently than her sister who looks more African American. So while I was already committed to this work, it is also personal now.

## DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

### Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Scholarship

For graduating seniors planning to attend a 2-yr, 4-yr, vocation or trade school in 2016.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 23RD AT MIDNIGHT**

For information or to get an application call Jeanne at 509-255-6013 or Elaine at 509-456-7785



# OCTOBER EVENTS

## OCTOBER 4

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF,  
PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA**



Gonzaga University's Presidential Speaker Series will feature Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.  
**7 pm**  
Gonzaga University,

**McCarthy Athletic Center**

Tickets will be available through TicketsWest and the McCarthy Athletic Center starting Sept. 1 for \$12; \$10 for seniors, students and educators. For more information, contact Angela Ruff at (509) 313-3572.

## OCTOBER 5

**MINIMIZING IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION SETTINGS**

Dena Samuels, Ph.D

**7pm**

**Weyerhaeuser Hall's Robinson Teaching Theatre at Whitworth University**

Admission is free.

For more information call (509) 777-4215.

## OCTOBER 6

**MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM**

The NAACP Political Action Committee will be hosting a non-partisan candidate forum featuring Spokane City Mayoral candidates, **David Condon and Shar Lichty.**

**6:30-8:30pm**

**East Central Community Center**

**500 S. Stone Street**

For more information contact the Spokane NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 11410) or visit the website at <http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>

## OCTOBER 9

**BETHEL A.M.E. YOUTH EXPLOSION  
"Discover Who You Are in Christ"**

Bethel A.M.E. Church is hosting Youth Explosion with dance teams, local choirs, Chosen, and more. Guest Speaker: Pastor Andre Winston Sr., Blessed Temple Ministires, Tacoma, WA; MC Michael Bethely, Bethely Entertainment

**6:30-8:30pm**

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**

**645 S. Richard Allen Court, Spokane**

## OCTOBER 19

**NAACP MONTHLY MEETING**

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

**7:00pm**

**Community Building - Lobby  
35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA**

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

## OCTOBER 23

**NAACP MINI SPA FUNDRAISER**

Join the NAACP for a relaxing fundraiser. Enjoy wine, champagne or cider and hors d'oeuvres, while you relax and receive a mini spa service of your choice. **Donation: \$20** (includes: one glass of wine, champagne or cider, one min spa service, tour of the spa, music and door prize.

**7:00-9:00pm**

**Northern Quest Resort and Casino**

**100 N Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, WA 99001  
NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR, MUST RSVP**

For more information contact the Jeanne Baynes at 509-255-6013 or Wesley Gardner at 509-270-5473. <http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>

## OCTOBER 31

**HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT**



Join New Hope Baptist Church for an evening of safe Trick or Treating, games, treats, food, cider, and lots of candy.

**Free of charge  
From 4:30pm - until the candy is gone**

**New Hope Baptist Church**

**409 S Greene St, Spokane, WA 99202**

For more information contact Shawn Watkins at 509-868-4871 or New Hope Baptist Church at 509-535-1336, <http://newhopespokane.com>

## NOVEMBER 28



**THE COMMODORES**

Motown legends and R&B stars with hits including "Brick House", "Easy", and "Lady (You Bring Me Up)"

Tickets: \$45, \$55, \$75

**7:30pm** (Doors open at 6:15pm)

**Northern Quest Resort and Casino**

**100 N Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, WA 99001**

Box Office: 509-481-6700 or 877-871-6772

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



**INHS**  
INLAND NORTHWEST HEALTH SERVICES

[inhs.org](http://inhs.org)

## Collaboration Drives Innovative Health Care

Inland Northwest Health Services is an industry leader improving patient outcomes, leading health care innovation and creating healthier communities. See how you can make a difference.

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Qualified persons of every race, national origin, gender, veteran status, disability, age, creed, sexual orientation and gender identity welcome.



## 96TH ANNUAL NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET



*Featuring Speaker  
Hilary O. Shelton*

**November 7, 2015**

**7pm**

**Northern Quest  
Casino, Airway  
Heights, WA**

**TICKETS: \$50 (AVAILABLE NOW)**

For additional information or to order tickets call 509-325-3772

*Please send information about upcoming community events to [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com).*

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**MUST SEE TO BELIEVE!!!  
ONLY \$79,900**

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**2000 Townhouse/Condo  
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**Great investment for First Time Homebuyer:**

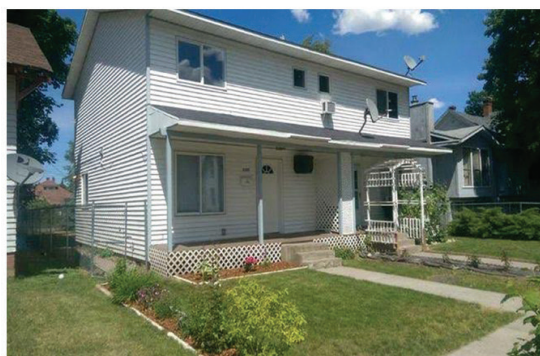
\$378 monthly payment at 3.92% interest rate

**Perfect as an Investment Property:**

\$800/month rent - 10% Return on Equity (ROE)

**Unit 2107 E. 4th Avenue, Spokane**

CALL 509-991-1463 See a more detailed ad on [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) or [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)



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