

# MSD Council - Position 11



HALIM RAHSAAN

Halim Rahsaan is a candidate for the Metropolitan Service District Council, Position 11.

### Reasons for Candidacy

Rahsaan believes that minority people should be in on the decision making and should be aware of the issues being discussed before the policies are made. "There really are

no Black officials who represent the area where most people live. Although Charles Jordan is concerned about the problems of this area, he is elected to represent the entire city," Halim hopes, if elected, to represent the concerns of the community and to bring information back to the people.

"It does no good to have representatives in government if they don't know the people they represent. I have lived here all of my life; I have a home and a family and I'm not going anywhere. The decisions made by the MSD Council not only effect my community but they effect me."

Rahsaan pointed out that although he and Robert Phillips seem to be the only candidates actively campaigning, Mrs. Steven Kafoury, has gained most of the endorsements. "I really don't see how she could represent our community — I have never seen her in the community. Maybe she could represent Alameda."

### Pressures from the System

Rahsaan does not foresee any problems with pressure groups. "I will hear the concerns, get all the facts I can and weigh the alternatives. If you are to be the representative of the people you have to make decisions after analyzing the data. Decisions are sometimes hard and are not always popular with the constituents, but you have to act in a way that you can live with your own conscience."

Rahsaan explained that he has worked under pressure, particularly

when with the State Personnel Department. Rahsaan was with a special project to recruit minorities for State employment. They worked with agency heads to get them to hire minorities and some of them were not enthused or very cooperative. "I know I can't be bought."

### Issues of Concern

One of the primary responsibilities of MSD is land use planning. "There will have to be a decision of whether the current urban budget will continue or whether there will be controlled development. It is essential that land be preserved for recreation, for agriculture and other purposes." Another immediate concern is the problem of garbage disposal. "The land fills now used will be full in a short time and we have to decide on a method of storage or recycling. Dumps are an environmental problem — they are open, they smell, and they attract rodents that then infest the surrounding areas. This is a crisis that has to be solved."

### Qualifications for the Position

"One of the first things the MSD will have to do is get organized and decide what its functions will be. I have had experience in administration, in affirmative action and hiring policies, and I think I can contribute."

Rahsaan's administrative experience comes from supervising Portland Community College's CETA project for a year — including

hiring, orienting and supervising personnel and seeing that the recruitment and placement function was successful. With the Blind Commission, they tested, selected and placed blind persons who had already received training in jobs and helped find employment slots.

"I have worked in human services for twelve years, so I have a good idea of the problems people have and some of the social programs. It is probable that MSD will become involved in social planning and programs, and that is how I have spent most of my work career."

### Community Contacts

Rahsaan's direct contact in the community includes his helping to establish an adult education program sponsored by PCC; membership in the Swan Island Kiawanas; membership in the Jaycees, as a Kiawana he urged his club to become more involved in the Black community, resulting in the sponsorship of two Little League teams and recruitment of children to attend the Kiawanas camp.

Rahsaan, who is a supervisor for the PCC CETA project, also is a counselor at Alpha House, a residential alcohol and drug treatment center. He is one of the owners of WIDCO, (Western International Development Corporation) which markets the "honey bean pie" and Salaam watches, and is planning expansion into additional areas.

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## Stop the death penalty

by Rev. John H. Jackson

The Death Penalty is a detriment to the goals of good government.

Before the events of the Black Revolution of the 1960s, the word minority had the limited description of American Negroes. In those days many Negroes were hung, sometimes without arrest, trial by jury or due process.

Civilization in America has advanced to the place where society no longer gives public sanction to lynching. The term minority includes all people of color and with the appeal to the American conscience and recent conflicts, minorities have gained some outward acceptance.

Today our jails are filled beyond reasonable explanation with minorities of all ethnic distinctions.

The fear that the psychology of hanging attempted to instill in the minds of Blacks in these United States still exist. The racist Americans who ruled by hanging are trying to regain that feared image by a "Death Penalty". The poor, uneducated and the minority will be controlled by a legal death penalty and the cry for good human relations will be lost in this generation.

(Delivered at a Nov. 1 rally against the Death Penalty)

### Straub

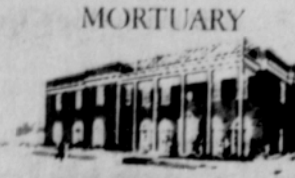
(Continued from Page 1 Column 6)

there are those who live in want or destitution — who must do without food or shelter or needed medical services . . . who look for work and cannot find it.

"I have always believed that the true measure of any society is the way it takes care of those who cannot take care of themselves. No child, no old person, no handicapped adult should ever have to suffer for want of basic needs in this state, and I have worked all of my political life toward that end."

Straub urged the voters to defeat Measure 6, the tax limitation Measure and Measure 8, which would reinstate the death penalty.

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### WHO IS BRUCE BROUSSARD?

- Bruce Broussard does more than just talk about the issues and problems facing the residents and businesses in District No. 16 . . . he takes action. Housing and business structures are repaired and restored, adding needed homes and business locations to the community.
- Bruce Broussard is active and involved in the community, having working experience with United States National Bank, IBM and United Good Neighbors.
- Bruce Broussard has been working to solve problems for the residents of District No. 16 through advisory boards and committees of the Portland Industrial Center, the American Legion, American Red Cross, Boys Club of America, Kiwanis Club, the Portland Chamber of Commerce and Multnomah County Mental Health Advisory Board.
- Bruce Broussard combines his educational background of Portland State University, Chapman College, Northrup Institute of Technology and Texas Southern University with sound business experience to produce results for the community.
- Bruce Broussard drew upon his 10 years of experience with the U. S. Marine Corps to help returning Vietnam veterans through the Mayor's special task force. Bruce Broussard's work in the community has been acknowledged by the Ministerial Alliance and the Marine Corps through awards for special services.

## Some Comments:

From  
 The Oregon Journal

In House District 16, a former Marine, Bruce Broussard, is endorsed by The Journal. Broussard has had experience in working with neighborhood organizations and is now a successful small contractor . . .

His commitment to the causes of senior citizens, among other human resource programs, may turn the tide in this election, in which there are many incentives for older citizens to vote.

The Oregon Journal, October 14, 1978

From  
 Willamette Week  
 House Dist. 16  
 Bruce Broussard (R)

State Rep. Wally Priestley has exerted a consistently negative influence on the state legislature. He is a self-styled gadfly whose attitudes toward many important social causes are admirable. But when it comes to getting down to the business of government, Priestley's constant efforts to upset every applecart and to keep his peers always guessing are not constructive. As we have said before, his is a faction of one, better suited to asking questions and causing trouble on the Portland School Board, where a regular lack of sound policies and programs better merits the constant tweaking that is Priestley's trademark.

Bruce Broussard, on the other hand, has been a constructive force in inner-Northeast Portland neighborhoods, particularly with his work at rehabilitating dilapidated houses, and then actively seeking new ways for disadvantaged persons to be able to purchase them . . .

Willamette Week, October 23, 1978

**ALSO ENDORSED BY THE OREGONIAN & OTHERS.**

Paid for by Citizens for Broussard, Mary King, Treasurer  
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