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"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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Campaign '88: Harvey Lockett

by Nyewusi Askari

According to Harvey Lockett, Candidate, Portland City Council, Position #4, "Leadership is the act of one going before and showing the way, of guiding in direction, course, action or opinion."

In a position paper entitled, "Perspectives On Important Issues Facing The City Of Portland," Lockett charges his opponent, Commissioner Dick Bogle, with ineffective leadership and says he (Lockett) is running for City Commissioner Position No. 4 because the "City deserves a candidate with clear vision, a strong commitment, personal vigor, and dedication to quality in carrying out the public trust."

Lockett believes a leader must be capable of "anticipating problems before they occur; verifying the existence or likely occurrence of problems; discussing and educating the public on the facts associated with issues and opportunities; developing policies to guide strategies and programs; and acting to adopt programs and strategies to improve service, meet community needs and get the City moving in a positive direction."

On the issue of public safety, Lockett says "my opponent has made only one major policy initiative — the Fire Bureau/Ambulance Proposal. It had little public input and after much time and money spent, it succeeded only in raising a restraint of trade issue with private companies." Lockett goes on to say that while Bogle has made no secret of his desire to run the Police Bureau, "he has offered no major policy or program initiative on either crime or public safety issues."

Lockett's position paper makes other charges against Bogle: (1) that when Commissioner Bogle was in charge of the Personnel Bureau for the City, he failed to develop policies for implementing the residency requirement for City employees, a law which was put in place by the voters; (2) that Bogle let the City go without an affirmative action plan, leaving the City out of compliance with federal regulations and bringing a threat from the Reagan administration of a cut off of federal funds until a plan was adopted; (3) that while in charge of the Environmental Services Bureau, Bogle was handed responsibility for forging an acceptable residential recycling program, and even though the City was already late in meeting a state-mandated deadline for submitting the program, Bogle handed the unresolved issue to another Commissioner when the Mayor reassigned bureaus; (4)



Harvey Lockett

that while serving as the Commissioner in charge of the Office of General Services, Bogle instructed the staff to remodel the offices of three Commissioners. Although an amount of \$7,800 had been budgeted for City Hall remodeling, the final cost was \$71,850, or nearly ten times as much. Bogle's office alone cost \$14,473; and (5) that Bogle has the Office of Neighborhood Associations and has proposed a policy that will not allow recognition of established Planning Groups in recently annexed areas of the City. Lockett says "non-recognition of these planning groups will result in considerable time being required to organize these areas. The proposed policy fails to recognize and build upon significant contributions made by Planning Groups over the years."

Lockett proposes the following solutions to eliminate Portland's pressing crime problems; eliminate causes of anti-social/criminal behavior by actively seeking full employment and economic opportunity for all citizens through sound economic development policies; support and expand public and private alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs; support state programs and private efforts to break the child abuse cycle; insist on and support early identification of children most likely to engage in anti-social behavior and support policies and programs to meet their special needs, and support and encourage schools and community juvenile programs that address the needs of youth who are in trouble but not yet engaging in crime; continue to expand programs that help citizens and neighborhoods help themselves; seek flexible and creative law enforcement techniques and find more ways to be effective and support those changes determined through performance audits

that increase more police on patrol; support judicial reform and trial modernization; support and accommodate new state programs calling for medium and minimum security facilities.

Lockett notes that "the police are angry because they lack adequate resources and coordination to combat crime; judges are angry because people are being released from jail and are back on the street before they even appear in court; county commissioners are angry because needed jail space exceeds the dollar amount authorized by the voters; and most importantly, citizens are angry because they no longer feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. What is most needed is leadership, a desire to take responsibility for crime problems in our community, and the commitment to work toward developing solutions that can arise only through improved cooperation and coordination throughout the entire criminal justice system."

Saying he would encourage and support holding the City's budget to current levels, Lockett believes "The Contingency Fund must be rebuilt to an acceptable level to protect the City in case of fiscal emergency." His platform also calls for the City to continue its efforts in "attracting large employers," and that "greater emphasis should be directed toward assisting small business development and expansion." Citing an example, Lockett says the City of Portland should move quickly to establish a Pacific Coast/Pacific Rim economic trade fair featuring the products and services of regional small businesses.

Lockett's campaign proposals encourage the City to improve its efforts to provide affordable housing and play a more active role in improving its public housing stock for low-income families. He says that "much of the abandoned housing stock in Portland was retained for the purpose of meeting future housing needs. It was anticipated that the conversion of apartments to condominiums would create a housing shortage, but this has not occurred. Presently, many abandoned houses are used to manufacture and distribute illegal drugs."

Lockett says Commissioner Bogle "has proposed to cope with the abandoned housing problem by spending approximately \$100,000 to board them up, even though the law requires the owners of these properties to board them up at their expense. My proposition is simply to enforce the law, and to redirect the proposed funds to a better use," Lockett said.

Lessons from History

Queen N'Zinga represents the strength of her people. She fought against the Portuguese for forty years over her country. The Portuguese used every trick against her country to divide and conquer. They sold them guns for slaves. They made slaves fight for them, and created friction between chiefs. N'Zinga's brother, who was a weak king, asked N'Zinga to represent him at the Luanda Treaty of 1622. She had been already fighting against them for six years. At this meeting, the Portuguese did not provide her a seat, and her men used their own bodies for a chair. She refused the Portuguese' terms. When her brother died, she became the official Queen and declared her country free. This infuriated the Portuguese who tried to manipulate her people to kill her. Instead, she infiltrated their ranks and won victory after victory. Her quick attacks became legendary. N'Zinga — the African Queen of Angola.

Community-Based Group to Create New Options for Local Youth

by I.R. Macrae

Crime and youth are two words that are too often spoken in the same sentence. Giving teens a safe, supervised environment to hang-out together and enjoy positive activities is recognized by experts as one of the keys to crime prevention. Yet in a city where the crime rate is the hottest topic around, neighborhood drop-in centers for teens are far and few between. Likewise, the few supervised recreational opportunities which exist are often too expensive for low-income youth who need them most. And to make a bad situation worse, the city's budget for parks is in danger of suffering drastic cut-backs, a prospect which will mean reduced access by teens to healthy pastimes and sports in their own neighborhoods.

All in all, it's enough to give both adults and teens a case of the "summertime blues". But a growing number of citizens are making up their minds to do what the official bureaucracy won't do: they're going to create those recreational and educational opportunities on their own, with or without the help of City Hall.

At a meeting of the St. Andrew's Neighborhood Action Committee, a group operating under the auspices of the Portland Organizing Project, (a grass roots organization sponsored by 14 metro-area churches), discussion centered on how to provide youth with positive alternatives to the drug culture. Agreement on three major initiatives emerged from the gathering at the church's community center at NE 8th and Alberta on Monday, March 21: a neighborhood drop-in center where youth will find recreational activities, job-finding assistance and help with academics; networking among existing youth-oriented organizations to ensure that their services are accessible to youth in the parish; and a strong political fight to resist further cuts in the city's budget for programs relating to youth, especially those offered through the Portland Park Bureau.

While the initiatives are still in the discussion phase, committee chair John Villaume noted a consensus of opinion has emerged



Citizens concerned about our youth meet at St. Andrews.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

ed at earlier meetings on the need to respond to the needs of youth in the neighborhood. At the Monday night meeting, specific options for action began to be explored: making local gymnasiums available to kids in the afternoon and evening through the summer; refurbishing vacant buildings to use as drop-in centers; inviting local youth employment programs to establish a presence at such drop-in centers; setting up "coffee houses" under the auspices of the church where teens can socialize and enjoy free entertainment; demanding that the Park Bureau open up its community centers on weekends; and insisting that the city cease charging fees for youth-oriented activities at those centers.

Father James Coleman, pastor of St. Andrews, cited the success of self-enhancement programs of the sort run by Jefferson High School counselor Tony Hopson under the auspices of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, and noted that Hopson himself has also urged the establishment of new community centers. Participants also agreed to identify other existing programs and ascertain how much of their resources are being devoted to the area near St. Andrews. Villaume made a point of emphasizing, however, that any youth project would be open to all neighborhood youth, not just St. Andrews parishioners. "What we're doing in this parish does not have a fence around it,"

he said. One participant referred to his experience as a youth growing up in Harlem to support the concept of a neighborhood drop-in center. While drugs and crime were as much a problem then as now, he said, access to such centers — and the opportunities for personal growth which they provided — made a huge difference in his own life. Likewise, committee member David Hupp cited a personal experience in working with a neighborhood teen to support the idea that simple, low-cost youth activities can be enormously successful. Referring to an occasion when he complimented the troubled youth for a task well-done, Hupp said the boy's response convinced him that that occasion was the first time anyone had ever praised him. Many teens who seem destined for a life of crime, Hupp insisted, can be diverted from that course through contact with caring adults in a secure setting. "There's a lesson in all of this," he said, "If you provide opportunities modestly and with care — with the simple things in mind ... you can make progress."

Villaume noted that the St. Andrew group is not the only one in the Portland Organizing Project concerned with the problems of youth. Several other member parishes are also investigating the options for improving recreational and employment opportunities for youth, he said.



Julia Hicks, Pres. of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, speaks out against the President sending U.S. troops to Honduras, reminding the near 500 people that turned out for a rally at the Federal Building, that 40 percent of the U.S. Army is African-American; and she did not want her son fighting as the result of misguided foreign policy.

Photo by Richard J. Brown