



Volume 35, No. 8

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 21, 2015

Great Black Owned Businesses - 2015



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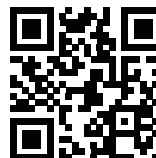
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- **Toledo School for the Arts** 37A/B Central Ave Crosstown
- **Toledo Technology Academy** 18A/B/C Sylvania Ave Crosstown *AND/OR* 20A/B Upton Ave Crosstown
- **Trinity Lutheran School** 34A/B/C Airport Hwy Crosstown
- **Waite High School** 11A/B East Broadway Crosstown
- **Wildwood Environmental Academy** 27A/B/C Reynolds Rd Crosstown *AND/OR* 34A/B/C Airport Hwy Crosstown
- **Winterfield Venture Charter Academy** 27A/B/C Reynolds Rd Crosstown
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Responding to a Failed War

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The Truth Contributor

(For the United States, the) drug war has arguably been the most devastating, dysfunctional social policy since slavery.

- Norm Stamper, former chief of police Seattle, Washington



Despite the hoopla over the elections for mayor and city council going on until November 3, the most relevant issue on the ballot is Issue 3, the Marijuana Legalization Initiative.

No disrespect to Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Councilmen Tyrone Riley and Yvonne Harper and other mayoral and council candidates, but the issue, also known as the ResponsibleOhio plan, is the one that most directly affects the quality of black life.

A social policy designed by former President Richard Nixon to counter the gains made during the Civil Rights struggle, the pandemic War on Drugs has and continues to be the cruellest weapon of mass destruction used to heap retributive violence against black and brown Americans.

Despite the fact that whites and blacks use marijuana at similar rates, blacks are arrested nearly four times the rate of whites. While only 13 percent of the population is African Americans, a majority of those arrested, including 60 percent of people in state prisons for drug felonies and 81 percent of those in federal institutions are black.

To put it succinctly, "state and local governments," says the ACLU, "have targeted blacks and communities of color by aggressive and selective enforcement of marijuana laws." The collateral consequences of this racial policy of social control has destroyed families and communities of color, increased child poverty and made it nearly impossible to educate our youth. Children with incarcerated parents make them less likely to be school-ready and have problems with things like staying on task, paying attention, and keeping their emotions under control.

Most would agree that the \$1.5 trillion, 50 million arrests for nonviolent drug offenses and 45-year-long war has not worked.

"The drug war is a complete failure, and even worse it is a self-perpetuating, constantly expanding policy disaster," says retired New Jersey State Police Lieutenant – Undercover Of-

ficer Jack Cole. "If current drug policy actually worked drug supply and purity should decrease. Drug use, overdose deaths, murders and violations should decrease as

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Community Calendar

October 24

Beauty, Beau and Business Brunch: Sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority and UAW Local 12 Jeep Civil Rights Committee; Vendors shopping event; 10 am to 3 pm; UA Local 12 Hall; Local business men will speak on management: butterphly99@gmail.com

October 25

Friendly MBC Women's Day Program: 11 am and 4 pm; "Christian Women Going to War, Armored Up and Fighting with Prayer:" 419-266-1935 Center of Hope and Susan G. Komen of Northwest Ohio Worship in Pink: A tribute to breast cancer survivors, caregivers and loved ones; 11:30 am Indiana Avenue MBC Trunk or Treat: 4 to 6 pm; Ages 3 to 12; Family food, fun, Toledo Zoo animals, horse rides, carnival games Calvary MBC 86th Church Anniversary Celebration: 4 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Timothy Pettaway of Walk the Word Ministries

October 30

Braden United Methodist Church All Saints' Day Celebration: 6:60 to 8:30 pm; Free games, prizes, food and fun for children of all ages: 419-386-2700

November 3

Election Day!!

November 7

St. Philip Lutheran 78 Anniversary Celebration: 9:30 am: 419-283-1434

I'm Not Proud Of This But

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

You know, they say confession is good for the soul. Man, have I a boatload to confess!

With this election year, I have been handicapping the various candidates running for mayor. Nothing elaborate, just my own system of who is who and what they say and how they say it.

I make those estimations on a weekly basis and I pass them along to certain friends whom I know cannot keep their yappers shut and they will spread around what I said like brittle grass in a prairie wildfire.

Yes, I knew these blabbermouths would promise secrecy but deep in my heart I knew they were loose cannons and could not help themselves spreading political tidbits among the social media and from ear to ear.

Nonetheless, I fed these information junkies all they could handle and especially with what has happened in the past few weeks.

As you know, this crazy election cycle for mayor has a bushel-basket full of candidates, some nice and some not so nice.

Well, somehow it got out to these mayor wannabees that I had a pretty well-established gossip line of communicators and apparently they wanted in on the action by me throwing my communicators some new juice about them.

I did and now, looking back, I should not have done so because when it was all said and done, these candidates poured out their hearts and bared their souls and I, with no honor or with any shame, violated their trust and spewed out certain things they said to me and passed it on to others.

After hours of anguish and hours of missed sleep and with my stomach in knots, I decided it was best to make a clean break and simply let the chips fall where they may and tell my dear readers the full story of what was said so that you may get it first hand from the proverbial, "horse's mouth".

So, in no particular order, is the summary of what these candidates said to me in order to get access to my blabber mouth sources with the hopes that they could pick up a few votes in what appears could be a very tight mayoral race.

Carty Finkbeiner: Carty came to my office already cussing up a blue streak since the elevator stalled on him and he was stranded for about a half hour before help came and let him out. He was contrite about calling Mike Bell (at that time the fire chief) KING KONG! and wanted me to pass that contrition on to my readers.

When asked about the negative budget balance that he left behind when he left office, again, Carty cussed up the Devil and blamed everyone but himself for that negative cash flow situation.

When asked about his legendary tantrums with his staff and city employees, Carty let go with such a non-stop litany of *****! and #=x@*&#(&#!, that I had to cover my ears!

When he finally left my office, I had to wash out my ears...it was

that bad.

When asked about the slogan, "Carty gets the job done!," I asked him what jobs were accomplished and again, his answers were dire threats and shaking fingers and a loud monologue of how great he was.

Mike Bell: True to form, Mike came dressed in his trademark 20-gallon tan Stetson cowboy hat, biker jacket and smartly tattered jeans. He still had an aura of outrage that the Toledo voters gave him the heave-ho; and he wants to get back into office to show them that he is more than just a pretty face and a bag of chips.

When asked about his prior support for Senate Bill 5 as promoted by Governor Kasich, Mike became sullen and started clenching his teeth.

"I was robbed! The governor promised me a golden ticket to Columbus if I could deliver Toledo but he never came here and campaigned and hung me out to dry!"

When asked about his seemingly proclivity to go to bars and engage in possible touchy-feely conduct with the female population, Mike went apoplectic and said he touches only those ladies who say they want, "The Mike Bell Experience"...nothing more.

Sandy Drabik (nka: Sandy Collins): Sandy came into my office humming The Ohio State football fight song thinking that I was a Buckeye fan and that it would win her some points. It did not. This year, I am for Michigan. Big mistake, Sandy!

When asked why she went from Republican to Independent and changed her name from Drabik to Collins and was using the same colors that her late husband used when he campaigned, Sandy admitted that running as a legacy candidate is dicey if you cannot prove that you were a big part of that legacy! She being the brains behind the throne? We don't know that!

When asked what she could or would do different than the current mayor, Sandy went blank for a moment but recovered and said that Local 92 (Toledo firefighters) should take a vote of no confidence in their union leader since he is adamant about not meeting with the current fire chief and he is stopping any progress to get the stalemate addressed.

Mike Ferner: Mike came in exhilarated from just spraying yellow graffiti on the office building with slogans about fixing the torn-up streets. I immediately showed him the door! Didn't he learn from his prior graffiti run-in with the law?

Opal Covey: She came late because she had an overpowering vision in her car that unless Toledoans vote for her, a plague of frogs from Swan Creek will overwhelm Toledo three days after the election. I quickly rushed her out of my office and locked the door.

Sandy Spang: Sandy was a no show. She apologized and said that she could not find my office and also said it was in a part of the town that was full of transients (?). I thanked her for her time and crossed her off of my list.

Paula Hicks Hudson: Paula also could not make it due to her spending 12 hours every day on a pontoon boat in Lake Erie personally drinking water samples to make sure that our water supply is safe and also closely watching her current chief of staff so that he does not go rogue and change the locks on her office door. Such drama going on in city hall!

Well, there you have it. I quickly relayed all of the above information to my channels and as expected, within a few hours, the city was buzzing with what was said and who said it.

As for my vote? Simple... don't change horses in the middle of the stream or, when pasta is boiling, don't add cold water to the pot!



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Calvin Powell, Owner

Perryman... continued from page 3

well, but instead, they have continued to rise," he adds.

Most disturbing is the fact that today nearly 40 percent of murders are going unsolved compared to nine percent when the war started. Also, nearly 60 percent of rapes and arsons, 70 percent of robberies and 90 percent of home burglaries go unsolved while valuable police work is overwhelmingly allocated to chasing around low-level nonviolent drug offenders.

What would be a responsible solution that effectively deals with the devastation of wasted lives and communities as a result of the war on drugs or marijuana, in particular?

Cole, the co-founder and board chairman of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), a 100,000+ member international education organization made up of police, judges, prosecutors and correction officials in 120 countries and with granted consulting status to the United Nations, recommends the legalization and regulation of drugs as more efficient and ethical solution than prohibition. Legalization of medical marijuana, he notes, is associated with a nearly nine percent decrease in traffic fatalities and with sharp reductions in suicide rates.

Yet, helping LEAP to communicate its message more effectively could come from a recent partnership between faith and law enforcement. "We give hundreds of talks," he says. "Afterwards, 80 percent of the Rotary or convention audiences will wholeheartedly agree with us and our medical partners. The 20 percent who don't, invariably come up to us afterward and say: 'You're right! If we legalize the drugs then death, disease, crime and addiction can be solved. But, you know, it's just immoral to allow people to use drugs.' And when they say that to me there is nothing, personally, I can say to convince them.

They listen to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals but if we are going to solve this terrible problem, then people also need to hear from the faith community. Therefore we have partnered not only with the medical profession (Cops and Docs), but also with the faith community (Cops and Clergy)," he continues.

The question is What would Jesus Do?

He certainly did not stress condemnation and sending those most hurting off to jail. Jesus' teaching primarily centers on our treatment of others and the need for us to show compassion, while treating others with respect and dignity. He also stressed that we should never leave people, such as marginalized victims of an unjust drug war, wounded and bleeding on the side of the road. Neither should we condemn them but to heal them. However, Jesus did drink wine with his disciples and kept the party "bumping" by turning water into wine after it had run out at a party even saving the best wine for last.

The Bible clearly speaks out against all abuse, including that of food. Paul recommended that Timothy take a drink to calm his nerves but Ephesians 5:18 commands us "do not be drunk, but be filled with the Holy Spirit." It is a focus that condemns abuse and excess but not use. The greater moral or ethical wrong, for me, is treating drug use as a crime, rather than a health problem.

What would I do?



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1. Prioritize public health, public safety and community and separate use from abuse while using regulation rather than criminalization as a way forward.

I do not advocate or promote the use of drugs or alcohol, but like LEAP, I am deeply concerned about drug abuse and community safety threatened by the flourishing of gang and cartel violence. A perpetuation of prohibition policies will not remedy these problems.

I believe that drug abuse is a health problem and not a criminal justice problem and that it is morally wrong to send large numbers of youth of color to prisons and in essence, mark them for life for mere low-level nonviolent offenses.

2. Keep It 100:

I believe that we can no longer afford to remain in denial. The drug war has not worked because it has nothing to do with drugs but is about race, power, racial control and money.

3. Not Be Silent Anymore:

The Spirit of the black community has been broken while the Church has remained silent on nearly every substantive issue since the Civil Rights movement. Law enforcement has wasted valuable time, resources and lives needlessly chasing low-level drug offenders from corners while millions suffer in silence and lives are lost to issues such as domestic violence. It is incumbent upon the Church to educate its members and the community while simultaneously calling for mercy, healing, forgiveness and the possibility of second chances. That's our work.

4. Work on changing draconian drug laws so that churches, community, social service organizations, and relatives can focus on keeping people away from drugs and teaching people to make good decisions.

One way we can carry out this moral imperative is for churches to offer a resolution like the following of the New England Assembly of the United Methodist Church, representing over 600 congregations in six U.S. states. This resolution, which calls for an end to the drug war, passed 597 to three and should also be adopted by churches that are tired of the war on drugs that is in reality, a war on people. LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN!

A Resolution Regarding the "War on Drugs"

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline charges us to seek restorative, not punitive, justice. Specifically, it states,

In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole. Restorative justice grows out of biblical authority, which emphasizes a right relationship with God, self and community. When such relationships

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Perryman... continued from page 5

are violated or broken through crime, opportunities are created to make things right. (BOD PP164, H)

To that end, we offer the following resolution as an appeal to end the so-called "War on Drugs."

Whereas: The public policy of prohibition of certain narcotics and psychoactive substances, sometimes called the "War on Drugs," has failed to achieve the goal of eliminating, or even reducing, substance abuse and;

Whereas: There have been a large number of unintentional negative consequences as a result of this failed public policy and;

Whereas: One of those consequences is

a huge and violent criminal enterprise that has sprung up surrounding the Underground Market dealing in these prohibited substances and;

Whereas: Many lives have been lost as a result of the violence surrounding this criminal enterprise, including innocent citizens and police officers and;

Whereas: Many more lives have been lost to overdose because there is no regulation of potency, purity or adulteration in the production of illicit drugs and;

Whereas: Our court system has been severely degraded due to the overload caused by prohibition cases and;

Whereas: Our prisons are overcrowded with persons, many of whom are non-violent, convicted of violation of the prohibition laws

and;

Whereas: Many of our citizens now suffer from serious diseases, contracted through the use of unsanitary needles, which now threaten our population at large and;

Whereas: To people of color, the "War on Drugs" has arguably been the single most devastating, dysfunctional social policy since slavery and;

Whereas: Huge sums of our national treasury are wasted on this failed public policy and;

Whereas: Other countries, such as Portugal and Switzerland, have dramatically reduced the incidence of death, disease, crime, and addiction by utilizing means other than prohibition to address the problem of substance abuse and;

Whereas: The primary mission of our criminal justice system is to prevent violence to our citizens and their property, and to ensure their safety, therefore;

Be it Resolved: That the New England Annual Conference supports seeking means other than prohibition to address the problem of substance abuse; and is further resolved to support the mission

of the international educational organization Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) to reduce the multitude of unintended harmful consequences resulting from fighting the war on drugs and to lessen the incidence of death, disease, crime, and addiction by ending drug prohibition.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centrofohope-baptist.org

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The Importance of Supporting Black-Owned Businesses

By Jay Black, President Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce
Guest Column

I have studied this issue for some time now and have come to the conclusion that we will not solve the economic and social problems that have plagued our community for the past few generations unless we change our thinking and behavior relative to supporting our businesses.

Why, you might ask?

When we don't have control over our own commerce we are at the mercy and control of others. Have you wondered how non-black owned businesses (white, Middle Eastern, Asian) dominate the small businesses in our community while at the same time knowing that they would never allow this to happen in reverse in their communities?

It is called the control of commerce.

Have you wondered why every other ethnic group supports it' own except us? Perhaps they understand this concept more than we do. I must add that it is not possible at this time for us to spend 100 percent of our discretionary income with black-owned businesses because we are not in every business discipline locally. For instance, there are no black-owned new RV dealers in this area so there is no opportunity to buy a new unit from an African American.

The good news is we can begin to reverse these adverse trends by consciously changing our behavior and by spending **some of our money with African Americans** on a consistent basis. I challenge you to make an effort to patronize a black-owned business at least three times a month for starters. If you need help with finding quality African -American businesses call the TAACC office. Listed below are just three benefits of supporting our businesses on a regular basis.

1. We have greater control of what goes on in our community. For those

of you who are old enough remember the days when Dorr, City Park, Division and Collingwood streets formed the core of our communities' business district, there was a tremendous sense of pride in knowing that we "owned something." Our children saw black business owners on a daily basis and could more readily aspire to be one of them. We had control over who worked in those businesses and our dollar turned over multiple times before it left our community. The unemployment rate was much lower in our community then than it is today.

2. Unemployment Rate. We will begin to reduce the unemployment rate in our community if we can help our businesses grow. Go into any African-American-owned business and you are apt to see African Americans working in them. There is a large and growing segment in our community whom no one will hire (except us). These are the ex-felons, and Bobos, Junebugs, Shykondas and Aquacenas in our families and churches. There are approximately 2.0 million African-American owned businesses in America and approximately 1.9 million unemployment amongst African Americans. If we would help our businesses grow by patronizing them on a consistent basis we could conceivably solve the unemployment problem in our community.

3. Crime Rate. We can reduce the crime rates in our community by helping our businesses grow. How? When Pookie is gainfully employed he doesn't have time to get with the wrong crowd and consequently get into trouble. We could also drastically reduce the recidivism rates for those who are currently in the system if they had access to gainful employment once they exit the system.

Great Black Owned Businesses - 2015

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Last year in October, we introduced to or reminded our readers of a number of terrific black-owned businesses in the Toledo area – from eateries, to day cares to plumbers and auto repair.

We are back again to recognize a few more. But before we do that, let's just remind ourselves o those we recognized last year, based upon input from our readers.

They were, and are, in no particular order: Poor Clark's, a barbershop what has served the inner city for decades; Ameron Lawn and Snow Removal, a relatively new business – one of several in Sarah Bates' stable; Cimarron Express, another long-time business that specializes in trucking; Ron Wingate Law Office; Tparker & Co, a marketing/media firm; Sew Faithful, seamstresses; Aria Banquet, a catering firm; Leap Graphics, for design; Hair Trendz, a salon; R & L Plumbing; Little Generation Day Care; Quinsey's Automotive – where "Honesty Is Back;" American Floors and Interiors, Ryan Rollison's Dream Bodies – a personal trainer; Fabulously Fit – a workout for women; Parker Energy Solutions; Welch Communications – The Juice radio

station; Powell's Beauty Supply; Vince Davis State Farm Agent; J'Mae's restaurant; The Peacock Café; Our Brothers Place; Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and Genesis Beauty Salon.

Here are a few more to celebrate and to patronize.

RC – Rent-a-Car Leasing and Sales

Matthew Coleman, a long-time entrepreneur here in Toledo, has reached a crossroads as he explores his options and plots his business future. For years now, Coleman has operated various businesses related to automobiles – repair, detailing, customizing rims and tires, selling and renting – along with a handful of other ventures not necessarily related to the car business.

Now Coleman is focused on streamlining his business activities in an effort to develop that part of his operation that has the most growth potential – the renting and selling of cars.

"I really enjoy being an entrepreneur," says Coleman of his long-time vo-

...continued on page 8

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100 Year Black Tie Gala
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Show time – 8 p.m.

Held at the Stranahan Theater and Great Hall
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Performance by Three Mo' Tenors



Matthew Coleman

Great Black Owned Businesses... continued from page 7

cation. The next step, he says, is to go for investors in order to increase, most critically, his rental fleet. Coleman, who divides his time between his operations here and in Atlanta, GA, envisions a day in which his rental company – RC Rent-A-Car Leasing and Sales – will have multiple locations.

Currently Coleman's Toledo business still has a repair component – a necessary arrangement to control shop expenses.

"It's a unique mix," he says of his present-day business mix. "You might say I have a major in renting and selling and a minor in detailing and repair." Renting, first, and selling, second, will be the wave of the future for Coleman if all goes as planned.

For Coleman, a business can be divided into five components – products and services, daily operations, facility management, human resources and branding and marketing. The human resources component is the one on which he is currently striving to perfect – to put together a team of like-minded individuals who will share in the success of the operation.

RC Rent-A-Car Leasing and Sales is located at 1829 Dorr Street and is open six days a week. Call 419-536-7368 for more information or email info@rcrentacar.com.

Salon Onyx

Salon Onyx, a full-service salon located in the Davis Building at 123 N. Michigan Avenue, has been in operation for about four years, says owner/operator Alina Dunbar.

Dunbar's business includes four stylists, two nail technicians and an aesthetician. Clients, who come from all over the greater Toledo area, have access to waxing, facial, massage and makeup services.

In order to bring her salon to the downtown area, Dunbar and her husband had to build the business from scratch – a gutted-out storage area in the Davis Building. The result is a large, well-decorated, inviting space that complements the other businesses in the building such as Sophie's Sister and Pam's Corner. Clients can park on the street or in the lot at the back and walk through.



Alina Dunbar

"I am doing what I want and this has been my dream," says Dunbar, a Toledo native who has been a cosmetologist for over 20 years.

Salon Onyx grants Dunbar the opportunity not only to practice her craft and make a profit but also to place emphasis on how she practices that craft – ethically and professionally.

"Professionalism is first and foremost," she says of her approach to customer service. One of these days, Dunbar hopes to go into teaching so that she can impart that approach to others and ensure that she is "laying a good foundation with young people."

Ruby's Kitchen

Ruby Butler opened her restaurant, Ruby's Kitchen, at its current Dorr Street location in 2004. During those years she has done exactly what she always felt she was meant to do – apply the cooking skills taught to her by her mother for the enjoyment of many others.

It's really been a labor of love for Miss Ruby, as her customers call her. "I love being here, I love this restaurant," she says. "I love pleasing customers and meeting new people."

As much as she loves what she does, she readily admits these past dozen years have not always been smooth sailing. The restaurant,

Butler says, has seen more bad months than good ones. Nevertheless, she is still standing and the restaurant is still serving customers, almost a miracle in a business in which the average life of a restaurant is less than five years.

Butler is obviously committed to providing the very best dining experience for her customers. "I like Southern food," she says of her product. After all her mother was from Alabama and Southern food was what Butler learned about from an early age.

Helping Butler over the years has been her chief cook, daughter Sonea Hicks. Mother and daughter have worked together from the very beginning pleasing diners with such delicacies as smothered pork chops, rib-eye steaks, chicken wings and Butler's personal favorites – the catfish filets and the whole catfish dinners. Of course, no dinner would be complete if one didn't sample the peach cobbler.

"People love the peach cobbler," Butler notes with pride.

"When you come here, you are going to be satisfied when you leave," declares Miss Ruby.



Ruby Butler

...continued on page 9

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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Great Black Businesses... continued from page 8

We Be Ribs

James McDay, who has been in the food service business since 1989, started catering events by working out of his home. He eventually opened his restaurant – We Are Ribs – at 21 Wenz Road with sit-down and take out service.

Large groups, small groups, weddings, graduations, reunions, picnics ... McDay has taken his ribs, rib tips, baked beans and pulled pork all over Toledo in the last 25 years – truly moveable feasts.

In 2007, 2008 and 2009, McDay participated in the

Northwest Ohio Riboff and was voted – all three years – First Place Golden Rib Award and First Place Peoples Choice Award.

In the ensuing years, McDay has placed his products with Gladieux Enterprises and at the Huntington Arena and Fifth Third Field.

McDay's award-winning barbecue sauce, along with his baked beans and pulled pork, are now found in grocery stores throughout northwest Ohio and in his mobile unit at the corner of Jackson and Alexis.

Quality Time Day Care

Year ago, while working at Mercy Hospital, Aletha Braswell adopted two young boys. Fascinated as she was by the thought of providing service to even more youngsters, she quit her job and went back to school to earn her two-year degree in early childhood education. And she opened a day care center.



Quality Time Day Care, now in its 15th year, has certainly had its ups and downs, says Braswell. She found the building, at 2315 Dorr Street, abandoned and condemned. She moved in with her four children and proceeded to rehab it, getting it ready to become a day care center that earned, just this month, a very rare five-star rating from the State of Ohio.



James McDay

There was a bit of a jolt when the center lost Head Start several years ago – and because it is a Christian-based operation cannot become part of the program now run by Toledo Public Schools. Recently, however, Braswell obtained a federal grant – and Early Childhood Expansion Grant – that will help replace the lost Head Start funds and enable the center to expand and accept another 20 youngsters from its waiting list.

Quality Time now operates out of two buildings. The facility at 2301 Dorr tends for children 18 months to two years and, at 2315, those three years old and up.

Elegance With Style

Over the years, Marcia Hopkins' Elegance With Style boutique at 2909 W. Central, has earned such a reputation that even the stars come calling. That was the case earlier this month when Detroit milliner, Luke Song, the same Mr. Song who designed the now-famous hat that Aretha Franklin wore during the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama, stopped at the boutique to share his designs and expertise with the shop's clients.

...continued on page 10



“Won't you help me renovate my pool?”



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ZOO
NOV. 3

FOR ISSUE 11

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- Renovation of the historic tunnel
- Redevelopment of the Museum of Science

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Great Black Businesses... continued from page 9



Marcia Hopkins and Luke Song

The local hat, shoe, handbag and jewelry salon, which Hopkins opened 13 years ago has become a symbol of both elegance and style for numerous clients in the area, particularly plus-sized clients, her specialty.

When Hopkins returned to Toledo from New York years ago, she was disturbed to notice the paucity of choices for plus-sized women here, compared to the Big Apple, so she set out to correct that situation.

"I wanted to avoid the matronly look that plus-sized women were forced to wear," she says.

Over the years, Hopkins' focus has expanded into providing such styles, elegant styles, for smaller women as well.

Elegance With Style is a perfect example of achieving success by filling a void in the marketplace.

Majestic Lifestyle and Fitness

Reginald Peacock moved into 618 Adams Street and opened Majestic Lifestyle and Fitness, LLC about nine years ago and established a downtown center of conditioning and training for everyone, he says.

There, amidst government buildings and attorneys' offices, Peacock helps

his clients focus on what he calls the three elements of conditioning – cardiovascular, muscle toning and flexibility. "I cross train," says the workout guru.

And he works at adapting his program to the client's specific needs. "There are different levels of intensity. Most want a moderate intensity but I can raise the workout to a higher intensity if you want. It's all about meeting the needs of the client."

... continued on page 12



Reginald Peacock

There is a crime wave, accompanied by violence, surging thru Toledo neighborhoods. My car was broken into, as were several of our neighbors. I know other neighborhoods have felt this crime wave as well.

As Toledo Mayor, I have always put safe, clean neighborhoods at the very top of the city's agenda – and I will do so again – with your support.

Amy & I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 3!



Carty



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LIUNA LOCAL 500 ENDORSEMENTS

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Matt Cherry - District 2
Peter Ujvagi - District 3

Yvonne Harper - District 4
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David Hunter
Eric Kiser

City Council, City of Maumee

John P. Boellner
Dyana Y. Davis

Mayor, Bowling Green

Kelly Wicks



Great Black Businesses... continued from page 10

Majestic features an impressive array of equipment in its downtown location – from a variety of cardio equipment, weights and punching bags.

Peacock teaches calisthenics, step aerobics, muscle toning and even yoga motivated as he is by a desire to help others find their way to health and a healthy lifestyle.

Whittington Group Realty

When Emory Whittington decided to open his own real estate brokerage firm in 1997 it seemed to be such a no-brainer. He would no longer have to



Emory Whittington

split fees with a boss or bosses, majority-owned firms weren't paying much, if any, attention to those in the inner city seeking homeownership and there were no minority-owned realty firms in the area.

To his astonishment, almost 20 years later, he is still the only active African-American-owned realty firm in the northwest Ohio area. "I grew up here," he says of the inner city. "I wasn't going to run away from it."

For Whittington, his business has provided a win-win situation for

him and his clients. He owns the business and, therefore, all the fees. He provides a multitude of services for oft-neglected clients. Among such services is the education that other firms are not particularly interested in providing.

"I brought a lot of information that people didn't know existed when it comes to buying homes, such as down payment assistance," he adds. There have been many such programs over the years that he has brought to his clients' attention – programs that are not widely known.

Of course, after almost 25 years in the business, Whittington has reached

the point where he and his firm are no longer confined simply to the inner city – he has listings all over the area, including communities such as Perrysburg and Ottawa Hills

How is business these days in the volatile real estate business? Best year since 2008, he says, when the bottom dropped out of the house buying business. Business is looking up!

REH Systems Solutions

In 1996, Roy Hodge, a systems engineer, decided it was time to put his education and expertise to best advantage, and start his own firm. He founded an IT company, REH Systems Solutions, LLC in order to "collaborate with organizations and corporations as part of a strategic information technology alliance to provide development, implementation, training and support services for computer networking technologies and business solutions."

REH Systems is now a reseller for Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Dell and Hewlett Packard, among others, specializing in infrastructure development, network switching/routing, wireless email/mobile applications and unified communications integration.

Why did Hodges strike out on his own?

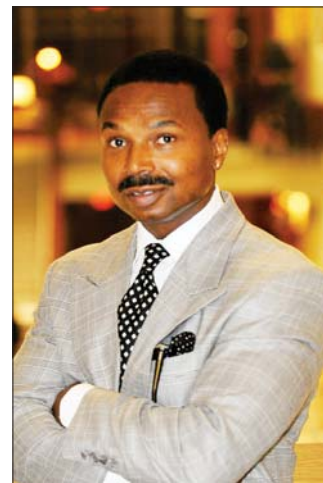
First and foremost to enhance his earning potential.

"Second, it enables me to maintain current pace with energy technologies and, third, we are able to be exposed to a variety of challenges and opportunities when dealing with a diverse customer base – public, school systems and private.

REH Systems works as a consultant for companies and public entities in their network electronics. A new contract brings in Hodges and his staff for a look at an organization from the standpoint of workflow – the connectivity, for example, to the Internet and the company's ability to communicate, internally and externally.

The key to ongoing success for REH Systems is to be able to be a prime contractor on projects or to be able to reach out to prime contractors directly for network electronics bids.

So far, so good.



Roy Hodge



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Mayoral Debate... continued from page 14

cameras for officers. Two weeks ago, we had a press conference to show the body cameras that we had purchased. My goal is that all police officers have them. Community polices is where it's a partnership with police and community. I will continue to work with the chief and others to make it more inclusive. You have to have a better communication and understanding on how police operate, and also understand the community in which officers operate in. That requires more communication, understanding, better training, and more inclusiveness of the needs of the department. There are some things that I have learned since becoming the mayor that are not culturally specially, that is all part of that communication in community policing that we have to do.

[Closing] I too want to say thank you for having this opportunity to have this conversation and answer questions that were posed to us. I want to tell you about the last few months of my life. I didn't seek this position but sometimes when opportunities or fate or karma enter a situation you have to answer the call. That is what I have done for the last eight months.

Those of you who know me, know that I work more in the background and believe that actions speak louder than words. I believe that thus far you have seen my actions as mayor of this fine city. First and foremost, the time that I ascended to the 22nd floor, which is the mayor's office, was a time in which the city was hurt. I wasn't sure how we were going to move forward or if we were moving forward, or just standing still. My actions have been one of moving us forward in a measured, reasonable and thoughtful process. While looking at situations and gathering information, to make the best decision that one could make with all the information that one has received. Looking at and having discussions with experts. I pledge to you today, if you chose to vote for me, that I will continue to focus on what's best for the city. I will always, always put what's best for all of us in the forefront. Together, we can make a difference, in the community, we can make a difference in the lives of young people that we are so desperately talking about. So thank you again."

Sandy Spang

"[Re: police force] I think a question like this has an initial enforcement piece and root problems, which need to be addressed. It should be commended that the police have increased community policing. I think that's a positive move. Mayor Collins' had increased community officers from three to 10 officers. That is important, but we also must look beyond our police force. As the chief has indicated, an appropriate size force is over 700. Of course funding has to be found for that. I think we also have to identify the root causes and opportunities. We can have a strong youth commission. Let's redefine what the youth commission does. There is also peaceful resistance, which you can see some examples in Wilson Park. This gives a voice to our youth. We need to both address this issue within the police department and within the community by providing more opportunity and more alternatives. Toledo is a city that serves a population of over 400,000 folks, and we've lost over 120,000 of those residents. We need to tell a new story and bring everyone along. We need to provide an opportunity for everyone.

[Re: Issue 1] I concur with that the mayor has said, and I think that the people of Toledo have spoke clearly about penalizing marijuana. I don't think that should be an impediment of the ability for employment. It's also important that we are able to focus more on opium. We are losing sons and daughters to cocaine addiction. The discrimination of marijuana shouldn't affect employment, education or financial aid. I think the people have spoken and should have a greater impact as it's applied to employment.

[Re: economic development] In my administration, economic development will be structured from the top down and bottom up. What I mean by that, every department will understand their role in economic development. The police department has an innovative program for environmental policing. It can help businesses that are pressured by high crime. Our inspection department can work more closely with a small business navigator to help entrepreneur. It will also work from the bottom up, which means we start with the people and the places that are here. I've worked with that neighborhood economic development, and too often we are looked over by site selection committees. It could be because we don't have small neighborhoods, we don't have small public transportation. If a company is going to come in with a \$15.00 an hour job, can people get to work and buy goods and services in their neighborhood. So neighborhood economic development is a part of building up to that larger part of economic development of success. We need to retain a growth of small to medium-sized businesses that are here and on really big projects it takes collaborations. Cities that win get all the partners together, higher education, regional growth partnership, like the Port Authority. The schools, can also prepare people for the jobs that are emerging. We need to diversify our

economic network and we need be ready for the jobs that are coming forward. I think that it has to be a holistic approach in partnership within our community.

[Re: closure of abortion clinic] It's important as an elected official that you respect and enforce law. This isn't a situation that I would feel the need to take action. This isn't about my personal belief, because I understand that I would have to serve the citizens and understand that it's important to enforce law as it stands. I would not take an active role in this situation.

[Re: city hiring minority contractors] I think the really important question here is what kind of opportunities are available for minority contractors and minority businesses in Toledo. Recently a project labor agreement was placed before city council without any anticipation that this company for immediate consideration. I think that would have had a very damaging affect on our minority business contractors and I stood against that contract labor agreement. I stood almost alone against that contract labor agreement, it didn't get passed. I believed it would have a very damaging effect.

[Re: black-owned businesses] Over the years I have patronized various contractors doing work on my properties. You put me on the spot, since I can't think of a particular business that I selected because of they were African-American owned business or not. I have used businesses based on their value of price on offers. I think the bigger question is what opportunities are being created for businesses. As a small business owner myself, we need neighborhood businesses in every neighborhood. We need them.

[Closing] On the city level, the issues that we are dealing with at the city level, frankly party politics won't make a difference. I've been able to work with all members of city council collaborative. If we're going to be able to build wealth, not just provide services, but really build wealth for all citizens. We're going to need to be collaborative, I think we need to set aside party politics, because it's holding Toledo back. I think it's time to be collaborative, and really that's my strength really connecting with people and working with people across barriers and I want to be that collaborative person in the center of Toledo's next chapter.

I serve on the board called, Northwest Ohio Food Council, so this is an area that I'm really interested in. Also, since I own a food establishment. This is a special interest to me. We have too many hollow neighborhoods, there is housing but you can't buy groceries or fill a prescriptions. You can't buy a cup of coffee and these are economic development questions. How do we encourage people, entrepreneurs, to bring these serves to neighborhoods? I believe the entrepreneur spirit is across all barriers, we have a lot of empty buildings in Toledo that could be thriving local businesses. If they are owned by the land bank, we can transfer them to potential owners for little or no cost. If we have grants, we could bring them up to Ohio building codes standards.

Working with the small business administration, there are entrepreneur who would like to bring businesses to their neighborhoods. I think is where we need to start. We need a business to focus on food desert in every neighborhood, we need access to fresh produce and groceries. There is program called Live well program, which puts produce in convenience stores. That's a start, but not the same as having a full range of groceries available to you. It concerns me that most of the major groceries stores have left neighborhoods. We have Dollar Stores now that provide access to food, but this is an important issue. I certainly want to be involved in finding a good solution. We covered a lot of diverse topics and as you can imagine every question that I got was not the question that I wanted. I would like to take this opportunity to over a few things. I was interested in the opium question.

Former Attorney General Holder said that we need to fight the opium problem, through education, enforcement, and treatment. I want to speak about the treatment piece. There was an article in The Blade over a year ago, that stated it can be very difficult to get treatment. Some treatments require certain types of insurances, and may be appropriate for more out-patient options. She suggested one call to reach treatment, I believe that is a terrific idea. A different treatment program will be better for each person. The other question came up, but I really wanted to focus on that. My focus on economic development really does start with neighborhoods, we really need to strengthen our neighborhoods. Make them distinct, every-one lives in neighborhoods, because they are the building blocks of our city. I think we need to have strong neighborhood associations, which can really speak for their own individual needs in their community. I would like to bring those neighborhood associations together, because I think they can learn from each other. There are neighborhoods with over 200 people at block watch. I think those folks should talk to the people who only get four people at their block watch. I think a lot could happen if we could bring the neighborhood associations together. The focus on neighborhoods is really important to me. Thank you for having this forum this evening, it's been great to have this conversation.

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firms. They will hire college graduates from the city of Philadelphia over outside schools. Lastly, all of our regional corporations need to what they can to hire multicultural, as well as in the public sector.

[Re: black-owned businesses] I patronize Henry's Jewelry store, Al Smith the photographer, and the Quality Inn. I know one thing that we talk all the time about is more policeman and public safety.

We need more city inspectors to get out and make certain that the city codes are being followed, daily and religiously. They need to be out in the field, we need more city inspectors to make sure that our housing stock is being kept up to date. Since Detroit has been struggling with that in the last few years, they just put together a project to focus on houses that are fixable and tearing down homes that are no longer fixable. The ones that are fixable, are provided with help and assistance from the city and the county of Wayne in rebuilding those homes. For the properties that are torn down, they take one of 16 alternative ways that the property can be reused, like agriculture, building another home, or things of that nature. There is work to be done in our city but it starts with us enforcing the housing codes in the city much more vigorously. That may require even more participation from Block Watch groups, they can let city authorities know which homes are running down. If there is a resource to clean that up, we need to find that resource. The city needs to find resource between the city and private sector.

[Re: a suit by former employees during his tenure] The team that I was working with felt that two individuals in particular had failed to go to work, that was the official charge, failure to report and complete professional duties. The team felt these two should be dismissed, I supported and agreed with it. I was close to the situation and our legal counsel said that we would win that case. It was turned over to the next administration and they decided to strike a deal which the Councilman Mike Collins believed was a waste of the tax payers' money. I think he was right. I wouldn't have done anything differently up until the time I left office, and turned that responsibility over to the next administration.

[Closing statement] Thank you NAACP, ladies and for the questions. You gave us a good cross section of questions. I would like to recognize, a former mayor, who wasn't recognized. She did great work for our city, Donna Owens and thank you for being here with us tonight. She is the only former mayor, besides the ones at this table.



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Also, I want to say tonight, ladies and gentleman, you have a pretty visionary group of candidates. Present company excluded, these other folks are pretty sharp. As I listened to them over the last two weeks, I can say only one will be elected. I hope the other five will remain involved with helping this city move forward with the NAACP and all the other organizations. We need to have anybody and everybody involved. I want to encourage the people at this table, to join hands with the new mayor.

Just a few things I will tell you in 30 seconds. I helped build a new Jeep plant not far from where we are right now. I repaved 36 street miles every year. I did not touch the street money for anything else, it was just used to repave streets. I had the best record of anyone, following Donna Owens. She was a little bit ahead of me. In 2007 was rated fifth best drinking water by the U.S. Congress of Mayors, and we became an all American City. I think that record speaks for itself, and I would be grateful for your vote."

Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson

"[Re: Issue 1] Before I received Mr. Ferner's email, I had already directed the law director to defend the vote and will of Toledo citizens from that lawsuit. Now back to your questions about enforcement by the police. I haven't had that conversation with the chief of police, because of just all that has transpired. My statement to the law director should be an indication, because that will be my statement to the police chief. The citizens of the city have spoken, we have an ordinance on the books that will be enforced, and enforced properly. I think the ordinance shows the progressive nature of our community, in that we recognize what a misdemeanor conviction could mean to someone in the area of employment. The citizens of the city have spoken, and I think that our ordinance is a responsible way to deal with an issue of marijuana use in our city. A person convicted of marijuana possession with qualified skills won't be discriminated against for city employment.

[Re: hiring ex-offenders] I believe that we have to hire these people. Looking back as a former defense attorney, there are many people who make mistakes and pay for those mistakes. When someone comes for employment, we need to look at those who are qualified to do the work. The city used to have on its application, a box, which you checked if you had a conviction but that has been removed. It is no longer a barrier. When that person passes the first hurdle, we have to look at other possible issues include bonding. Which is required for various positions. A person with just a general felony conviction is able to apply and be considered for a position within the city.

[Re: economic development] One of the things standing in our way of economic development is our inability to redefine ourselves, and discuss this. We have a diverse economy with Promedica and Mercy Health Partners.

Secondly, we have to provide more opportunities and programs for small business in manufacturing and development. The City of Toledo is the largest metropolitan city in the region of northwest Ohio, which is an important fact and we must have true partnerships, and more unified approaches. I've met with other mayors and other departments and discussed ways to market our area, and find natural connections in our area. The mayor should provide that type of information for development in our area.

[Re: heroin epidemic] The city of Toledo has partnered with the county on an initiative to deal with reforming the criminal justice. Heroin and opium addiction is currently facing our city and community at large. It requires health care professionals, the courts, social workers, everyone in education, and parts of the community to help educate us all on addiction.

I was working with the juvenile court system, and was appalled at the number of families that were torn apart by this addiction in our community. The juvenile court system has a holistic approach which includes education, social, welfare, health care professional, and law enforcement to surround and help this individual who is found convicted as a user of this drug. The city must continue to be a partner in this process, instead of just expecting law enforcement to only handle this.

[Re: black-owned businesses] I patronize my insurance company, my dentist, and an African American Credit Union. Before I became mayor I was a small business owner, my own law practice. While growing up in Hamilton Ohio, my parents had their own dry cleaning businesses, so I understand the need for having businesses and customers. It was always a struggle with having to compete with a major dry cleaners. It was important for me to learn this. In order for us to develop wealth in our communities, neighborhoods, or geographic community, you need to keep those dollars as much as possible within that community. I understand that my ability to earn a higher education is because of the work that my parents did as small business owners and keeping those dollars in the community, in order to spread the wealth.

[Re: police body cameras] We have already begun to address body

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gritty details of city government, including working on bigger picture issues. So I want to let you know what I did on Toledo City Council, during my two terms. There is no one up here that has done what I did, which was support for over a year to change the city's tax formula so that it got things done and corporations no longer got a free ride. What it meant for the schools, it offered an additional 10 million dollars to the schools and other agencies that relied on property tax. That took a lot of work. I don't know too many people who can say they generated \$10 million for the schools budget over a 10 year period. Also, sponsored a program where city invested over a million for energy efficiency over city buildings, it may be boring, but saves \$3-4 million on utilities. I followed up on a proposal from a student at the Friendly Center, street outreach program worker, Celia Williamson. She is now a national leader in human trafficking."

Carleton "Carty" Finkbeiner

"[Re: Issue 1 marijuana] I agree with everything that Mr. Ferner has said, plus the Toledo Blade editorial board summarized it beautifully. There are 24 wards in this city, and all 24 voted to decriminalize marijuana. That is a resounding message, that we should fight as vigorously as we are fighting the red light cameras along the Anthony Wayne Trail. There is no question that Toledoans support decriminalize."

We need to stand up to the not-so-big brothers in Columbus Ohio, and let them know where Toledo stands on this issue. We need to stick by it legally and vigorously as we can, and for as long as we can. Having been there, I can tell you that we had a cabinet of 25 members. At one time, we had more minorities and women, than the good old white boys, which historically controlled Toledo City government. I can also tell you that I had the good old boys white network had basically run over the mayor and city hall, then I brought in an African-American woman named Theresa M. Gabriel, who broke it up very quickly. She told the truth, whether I liked the truth or not. Even when the good old white boys would give it to me.

I don't care about gender or color, I want the best and brightest people who want to bring about change. If change will make the city of Toledo

stronger and better. I want to strengthen each and every department, including Affirmative Action Office.

[Re: attracting major companies] The city plays a major role in attracting middle class jobs, along with regional partnership like Port Authority and University of Toledo. The Midwest has been crunched ever since the housing foreclosures and bail outs. We have to bounce back, the whole economy of America needs to bounce back. The Midwest is really suffering. I think we need to look inside first before going outside. We need to provide more money, more support, and more encouragement for small business in Toledo that could grow into large companies.

There is also alternative energy, CNN called us the energy center of the future. It kind of hurt us, we have First Solar and University of Toledo, which has a good infrastructure for alternative energy. Even the state of Michigan is making a big push to alternative energy. Automobile supplies, and related industries is another opportunity. We've made some progress in this step. [Re: heroin epidemic] The Lucas County Sheriff department and his team are taking new steps. I applaud them for doing so. He has officers trained in intervention, and therapy solutions. I think the city of Toledo police need to take a similar approach. Also over prescriptions by doctors have added to the heroin addition on this area. I would like to see a successful approach to this issue. There are steps in the right direction. I am hopeful it can make a positive different in the right direction.

[Re: economic development] This is a real issue, automobile jobs were very helpful to minority families, they were able to put their kids through college and buy homes. The automobile jobs are shrinking. What can we do? First, more vocational education training within our public school system, everyone is not going off to college. We have a great vocation training within our city and the superintendent wants to go in that direction. I would like to see the city have a higher percentage of minority construction. I can't believe that the building of this beautiful school like this, that some of the things that have taken place with public fund dollars. We have allowed minority constructors to get a percentage of work, I have given that testimony. In Philadelphia, they encourage local hiring by local corporations, like hospitals and law

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The average family caregiver 20 hours per week on unpaid caregiving activities and spends over \$5,000 per year on out of pocket caregiving expenses for their aging loved one. While the emotional, physical and financial stress of the family caregiver role is undeniable, the good news is that the Area

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If you are caring for a loved one and would like additional information on the Area Office on Aging's Caregiver Expo, please contact us at www.areaofficeonaging.com or at 419-382-0624.



Kristian Brown from 13abc will emcee the Caregiver Expo.

Mayoral Debate... continued from page 17

them. The other part of your question about the affirmative action office. I'm assuming it needs strengthening, I'm not aware of the particulars of the office in recent years since I left council. I was at city council hearing when Jack Ford and Theresa Gabriel was there, I remember them questioning the contractors of the city and whether the affirmative action goals of the city were going to be kept during the Promedica construction. The company tried to weasel out of it, and the administration wasn't up front about it. I testified about the parking garage and that I support affirmative action goals put in place.

[Re: Southwyck] While I was talking to some people on my campaign. I remember a city recreation center that I once visited. It was a city-owned facility, it offered reasonable membership rate and seemed to meet the needs of the city. It went far beyond our facilities, what we need is a first-class plan process, so we can reflect more than just one or two people's ideas. [Re: heroin epidemic] We have to think realistically that we are not going to end drug abuse, the next best thing, is to arm ourselves about what could happen with transmission of diseases. We will need support from the medical experts in Toledo and beyond. I would like to see substance abuse and mental health problems seen as health problems.

When you have health problems you see a doctor, you go to a hospital and not a jail. If we start treating people like human beings, and do everything possible to help get them through these types of problems instead of putting in jail. The prison system isn't a mental health system. We need to get smart on how we deal with these problems. We will never be able to hire enough police to deal with that capacity. We need to place the people who want treatment in facilities where they can receive treatment.

[Re: affirmative action] Anyone that says color doesn't matter, doesn't take into account affirmative action, because it does matter. To answer your question I would make sure the city affirmative action numbers are abided by. I would go beyond that. I'm interested in following models used in Cleveland right now. In inner-city areas of Cleveland, the city and a leading foundation and major institutions collaborated and formed worker-owned for-profit business. People work in these businesses and own them. The people earn a wage and earn equity in that

company. When they retire or leave that company, they get a cash settlement which is not insufficient, and they can do something else. They are building wealth within that community and that is one thing that our current economic development practices don't have. We take offers from jobs, even if they don't build wealth, we don't consider the workers.

[Re: black-owned businesses] My insurance guy is white, and my barber is white. I mostly shop at Kroger's and belong to a food co-op. I also get most of my clothes from Salvation Army and Good Will. So I guess I don't do very well in this area.

[Re: Why me for mayor] What sets me apart is my background. I've been an organizer, sometimes paid but most times unpaid. I've also organized for environmental groups and labor groups. I have experience helping people come together to take on the struggle of power. Even when they believe there is nothing they can do about it. As a good organizer, I was able to help and inspire them, knowing they need to work together and build on their good nature that most people have. Too often people don't put that to good use. In the office of mayor we will need some organizing to deal with some of the problems that we have. Anyone that runs for office knows that jobs are very important, we all believe that true.

[Closing statement] One thing that I do differently, as I mentioned earlier, is to find ways to build wealth within the community. That means for example, difference between regular wage job verse worker-owned companies. That won't happen overnight or be able to employee thousands of people right off the back. If the city maintains a focus on that, that is something overtime that can make a difference. There is something as simple as energy saving programs, I know that sounds very boring, but when people save money on their utility bills they can keep that money in their pockets. They can spend the money locally and maintain wealth within the community. There are programs in the city that will go a long way, with very little money spent. This is just a few ways to keep money in the community as much as possible, so a community can build wealth.

I've been told by some friends that I need to do better job explaining that not only do I want to be mayor, but that I'm interested in the nitty

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- 138 of these businesses have five or more employees
- 29% are owned by African American women

Information compiled from ReferenceUSA database resource.



Mayoral Debate... continued from page 19

give you just a few of those things. First, we were able to balance the budget of \$48 million deficit to \$5 million surplus. During the period of time while doing that we were able to hire a 192 fire fighters, and 180 police officers, purchase 212 police cars, build three fire stations.

We talked about diversity today, we had the first African-American police chief and first Hispanic fire chief. We had the largest amount of contracts awarded to minority contractors in the history of the city. We also fixed 200 miles of roads and raised the level of participation within the city dramatically.

What I'm asking is for the opportunity to do this again. The budget situation isn't as bad as when I took office the last time. I think that I can really take it some place. It's all about thinking outside the box. It's all about keeping a positive attitude. It's all about the things that we can do together. I'm sitting up here because I care about this city. I'm looking for the opportunity to give back."

Sandy Drabik Collins

"[Re: blacklivesmatter] I would like to say that all lives matter, black lives matter, all lives matter. As a citizen of this city, there have been a lot of times where situations, I have seen that something less than fair has happened. All lives matter, and we all need to do our part to rectify any wrongs.

[Re gun violence] We need to deal with gun violence very seriously. In addition to the cameras, community policing and integrity can help relationships. This means that neighbors know police men and police men know neighborhoods. They all feel like one within the neighborhood. We simply need more police officers, more patrolmen on the street. It can't wait, we need more police officers. Their visibility itself can cut this down. After we deal with that, we must find the money. I believe that we can. We can add 40 police officers each year, for the next two years until we reach 575 patrolmen. That number doesn't increase by 80, it increases by half because of promotions and retirements. We must also deal with the causes and look at education. Many times a cause can be dealt with if we provide more educational opportunities.

[Re: developing the Southwyck area] The Southwick area are has sat far too long, it's important not to lose that part of the city and tax base. I appreciate that my husband championed the city to buy that property, and so the city can do something. The city must do something. I understand that there are plans to work with the private sector, which I applaud. The city must be helpful by having that portion of the community included in planning. So we will know that it will follow the need the citizens within the city.

[Re: affirmative action in contracting goals] In the area of construction, we need to make sure that our affirmative action goals are met. We can ask for that. The city can be proactive and follow the affirmative action plans for construction.

[Re: attracting companies to Toledo] In order to attract new corporations, we must focus our minds on not losing the ones that we have left. Making it a better place for them. It's hard to attract major corporations when the roads look like they do, and people don't feel safe within their own houses. We have to address these issues right away. We also have to actively market. Why not market to the world, because that will expose us to the world. It will attract business here. We have to let them know it's a great place to live because they could virtually move anyway for certain types of work. We have to be an ambassador of that, in the office of the mayor.

[Re: abortion laws and clinics] Elected officials should follow the law, and I would do that in all cases. When something is not in the jurisdiction of the office, regardless of personal views, which aren't important. They must follow the law. I would not take an active role, with the respect to the organization like Promedica. But with respect to this particular issue, I would be compelled to talk with legislative because the law is passive. I would express myself to legislatures.

[Re: patronizing black-owned businesses] I always try to patronize small businesses, especially restaurants. There was a place on Westwood, I would visit often for their ribs. I have patronized a number of minority businesses.

I don't know how many city employees live outside the city.

[Closing statement] In addition to finishing [the late D. Collins'] platform, which I believe was very solid. I also want to draw national attention to the water problem. We can't just fix dangerous water, and spend millions of dollars trying to fix it. What we need to do is go to the federal government. This problem is bigger than any city, or state.

In addition to that, I have done a lot of work in making governments more efficient. I've worked alongside city deputies. I can bring things to the table and help Toledo businesses become more of a state business. When I did work for the state, I came here and tried to get more Toledo businesses, because everyone thought it was just Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. I went around to the other cities, trying to convince them to see Toledo businesses as state businesses. I believe that this can become very

effective.

We should have a clean city, with green spaces with transportation. A safe city, a livable city, an inclusive city with a stable government. I think we need to fix some pretty big problems. Those problems aren't just the roads, safety, and water quality. We need to show our city government that they can do more and work more. Our response times can be better, we need to bring city government to the people, and make it work well before we bring in other money.

We need to bring in revenue and cut expenses. I want a government that will look for more service, provide good ideas, and start with the people of city government. That's what I intend to do if given the privilege of serving. I intend to ask the city workers how they would improve government. I think that there are a lot of ideas and we need a lot of input to improve our city and roads. Thank you."

Mike Ferner

"[Re: Issue 1 marijuana vote] As I told the Toledo Blade editorial board, I was there and they asked a very similar question. When you look at the table of organization chart for the city. It always has the citizens, and elected officials from various parts of the administration. It seems to me that the citizen spoke very clearly. In a brief email that I sent to Mayor Hicks-Hudson, a few days ago, I asked her to ensure, her administration will defend the ordinance against the attorney general suit as vigorously as possible. If I was mayor, I would make it clear to the officers that the will of the people would be enforced. Through that suit filed by the Attorney General we would find out which parts are constitutional and unconstitutional. I would do everything possible to ensure that the terms are enforced.

[Re: diversity in hiring administrators] Yes, I will commit to make every effort to ensure my administration is as diverse as the city. The chief executive of the city should make every effort. The top administrations would know, that this is the way it will be. We will define good, qualified candidates that will help the administration reflect the diversity of the city. You won't find people that are qualified to make the administration more diverse, unless you really go looking for them. Everyone has to look for

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CLASSIFIEDS

October 21, 2015

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EFNEP PROGRAM ASSISTANT (YOUTH)

OSU Extension, Lucas County is hiring for a Program Assistant (Youth) position with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP). The position will work 40 hours per week. This position will teach food and nutrition topics to low income youth in a variety of community settings. This person should be indigenous to the community. For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by Job Opening Number **412577**. To assure consideration you must apply by **October 25, 2015**. The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identity, national origin, disability status, or protected veteran status.

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United North Corporation is now accepting applications for 2 part time Maintenance positions. Maintenance Tech is responsible for the timely completion of all work orders along with general property maintenance. Must have experience with Basic HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and residential carpentry. Applicant should have a high School Diploma or equivalent and possess a valid State of Ohio driver's license and transportation. Email resumes to jbryant@unitednorth.org or mail to: United North, Maintenance, 3106 Lagrange St, Toledo, OH 43608. Positions to remain open until filled. United North Corporation is an EOE.

Request for Proposals Training Services for Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs

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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Training Services for PH and HCVP. Received in accordance with law until Fri., Oct. 23, 3 PM ET.** For

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Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



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Mayoral Debate... continued from page 20

beiner graduated from Denison University. He was elected mayor of Toledo in 1993, 1997 and 2005. He has hosted local television shows and previously coached at two local high schools.

- Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson earned her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. She was appointed to Toledo City Council in 2011, became council president in 2013 and became mayor immediately following Mayor Collins' untimely death in 2015.

- Councilwoman Sandy Spang graduated from Bowling Green State University, opened a small business in 2009 in South Toledo called Plate 21. In 2013, she was elected to Toledo City Council and serves on several local boards.

Michael "Mike" Bell

[Re: blacklivesmatters movement] It is apparent, when running for the mayor of the City of Toledo that all lives matter. What we have to do is focus on the areas where we aren't as sensitive or educated, and make sure that everyone is treated fairly. All lives matter.

In dealing with gun violence, we need to take the initiative seriously. In order to do what we need, there must be discipline inside the police force which allows everyone to feel safe involving this particular issue.

When I was mayor, we had Police Chief Diggs, and we prepared all cases to ensure that the people felt safe. He was able to reduce crime through technology and deployment of officers, showing that it can be done. We have to have programs in place that deal with the cause of the problem.

While I was mayor we had T-Serve, where people were brought into the court room, we talked with them, and help them to understand that if you want to do right there are people to help you. If you want to do wrong, we're going to take it seriously, which could include jail. What they should know is that number one, we're trying to help them first, but secondly if you don't chose to do right by the law we will arrest you.

[Re the City hiring ex-offenders] Let's be clear, there are people working who haven't been caught for doing the exact same thing that they are accusing other people of doing. One of the biggest things we're trying to work on, before I left, was the reentry program. To help people who want to get their lives back on track. We cause some of these problems, we create an environment here. Where people say 'okay I paid my debt but we're not going to hire you'.

Then we force people to positions that they don't need to be in. What I'm saying is, inside the City of Toledo we need to set the example. It's easy to say re-entry, but it's different when you put this in action.

We will hire people who are qualified, so they can change their lives, and change their families' lives. My intent is to work with regional agencies closely, but part of our problem here in Toledo is that people lose in that area. We haven't changed our plan in a long time. We have not looked outside of the box in a long time. We have put all of our eggs in one hat.

[Re: economic development] The automobile industry has been very good to us, but now it's time to diversify and understand that this is part of our problem. What are some of the other things that can be done? I was working on this solution, just this past summer with individuals who were trying to bring digital and high tech type work to Toledo, and make it similar to Silicon Valley. Working on the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University, we should be able to do this. These were young people who had ideas, and were prepared to come here from California. We need to start thinking outside the box. Our young people, are aware of digital, and understand high tech. We have people here who could do those things. What we haven't done is market what we have done to the world, about what we sit perfectly ready to do.

The two high-powered universities are able to do that, and provide the education and attract a pool of young people who can provide that leadership.

[Re: closing of last abortion clinic] This issue came up last week in a debate.

My stance as mayor is you have to enforce the laws. It behooves you regardless of your personal beliefs. You have to make sure the standard of care is taken care of inside your city. I would use the mayor's bully bullpen to get them to talk, Promedica or any other health system that are prepared to help. There are cases for both sides, as long as it's legal within the city, you have to be able to take yourself outside the issue. The citizens should be able to seek health options.

[Re: patronizing black-owned businesses] I patronize Ruby's. I'm always over at Our Brother's Place, and when I had hair I used to patronize Fez. If I was buying jewelry I would go to Henry's, but I haven't bought any jewelry lately. Those are just a few of the [black owned]

businesses.

My position is to keep the temporary [city] payroll tax and increase by four percent, which would be allocated towards fixing the streets. I've been very clear on that position the entire time I've been campaigning here. We need to stop waiting on the federal and state government to come in, I don't believe that will happen.

We need to allocate 70 million, move back from general fund to capital improvements. That gives us 30 million to work on roads. Then we can take the temporary tax, and plan 10 years out, so we can plan and be able to fix the roads. I think that would be more beneficial. We can leverage a lower interest rates will help us in these negotiation. If you want to have economic development you have to have drivable roads.

[Closing statement] I will support anything that will bring a higher quality of life to any area of this city. Anyone who knows me, knows where to find me on Saturday, which is near the basketball games or other programs in the community. I was the mayor that took over during the worse deficit, ever, in the history of the city.

Without a positive attitude and without the strength from my parents, I wouldn't been able to do some of the things that I was able to do. Let me

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Carty Finkbeiner



Sandy Spang



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and former Gov. Ted Strickland

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Community Mayoral Debate: Six Who Would Be Mayor

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Toledo Branch NAACP, the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and The Sojourner's Truth spon-

sored a mayoral forum on Thursday, October 15 at Woodward High School.

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- Updating the public consistently on budget, income and expenditures.
- Having accountability measures in place at all levels.
- Keeping an open dialogue with constituents, other city officials and the city's labor movement to keep Toledo progressive for the future.
- Focusing on restoring confidence and trust in city government and strengthening the partnership with the city and TPS.

Paid for by the Dr. Cecelia M. Adams Campaign Committee; Denise A Onyia, Treasurer; 2544 W. Village Dr. Toledo OH 43614

Mayoral candidates were asked questions from selected panelists and questions from the audience, every candidate wasn't asked the same series of questions. This article documents exact responses to all questions.

Candidates:

• Michael "Mike" Bell graduated from the University of Toledo. He was appointed Chief of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department in 1990, State of Ohio Fire Marshal in 2007, elected mayor of Toledo in 2009.



Mike Bell and friend

• Sandy Drabik Collins is former Mayor D. Michael Collins' widow and earned her law degree from The Ohio State University. Collins has 35 years of public service employment, including, currently, vice president of administrative services and general counsel for UT and current Ohio Building Authority member.



Sandy Drabik Collins

• Mike Ferner served the City of Toledo during two-terms on Toledo City Council. He graduated from UT and served the United States Navy as Hospital Corpsman.



Mike Ferner

• Carleton "Carty" Fink-
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