

CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

Town-Hall Meeting

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



served as the coordinator of the event, mentioned that the “purpose of the event was to provide information to the community regarding the candidates who are running for office.” Moreover, she stated that the “event was a success due to the fact that the majority of the candidates running for office attended the event and also the members of the African American community did come out to attend the event.”



Rosemary Lehmborg

tunity to hear from both the incumbent Rosemary Lehmborg and the challenger Charlie Baird. In the Travis County Precinct II Constable race, the public had the opportunity to hear from both the incumbent Adan Ballestros and the challenger Michael Cargill. According to Michael Cargill, he told the public that he is running for the Precinct II Constable position, in order, to “teach safety, provide security, and also restore integrity to the office of the Travis County Constable Precinct II.” In addition, he strongly believed that “it is important to teach our deputies the art of conflict resolution, when dealing with the community.”

On January 23, 2012, the Black Austin Democrat held a Town Hall Meeting, in order, to listen and to visit with Candidates running in the Democratic Party Primary. During the forum candidates were asked to address issues of concern to African Americans relating to the justice system, crime and punishment in Travis County.

In addition, the organizers of the Town Hall Meeting were interested in hearing from all candidates regarding their views on public services and on issues directly impacting the Austin African American community.

Doris Williams who

For instance, Barbara who attended the event mentioned “that the town-hall meeting helped her learn more about the candidates.”

Finally, the majority of the candidates who are running for office attended the townhall meeting. Moreover, the candidates had the opportunity to speak directly to the public. In addition, the public had the opportunity to directly ask the candidates certain questions regarding their platforms and issues.

For instance, in the heated Travis County District Attorney race, the public had the oppor-

Austin City Council

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On January 24, 2012 the Austin city council will convene to hear, discuss, and vote on items. During the Austin city council, they will discuss on issue ranging from law-suit against the city; fire department and police department issues; health and human issues; economic development issues; water management issues to zoning issues. Moreover, their vote on certain issues tend to affect both the city residents and those who work in Austin. The first item of the Austin city council was to approve of the last session agenda.

Then, the Austin city council will be approving certain items. For instance, the Austin city council will seek to “Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the wholesale wastewater service agreement between the City of Austin and the City of West Lake Hills allowing wholesale wastewater service to be provided to new commercial development located within the

City of West Lake Hills without increasing the level of service specified in the agreement.” In addition, the Austin city council will seek to “Approve an amendment of the outside counsel contract with Robert Icenhauser-Ramirez for legal representation in connection with Bryon Carter, Sr. et al v. Nathan Wagner, et al; Cause No. A-11-CA-887-LY, in an amount not to exceed \$300,00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$350,000. Also, the Austin city council will seek to “approve an Ordinance repealing Chapter 10-9 of the City Code, relating to notices at limited service pregnancy centers.”

Moreover, the Austin city council will seek to set for public hearing numerous issues. Set a public hearing to receive public comments and consider an ordinance amending the North Burnet Gateway Regulating Plan to allow certain legal non-conforming uses to continue or change in the Neighborhood Residential subdistrict for a

set period of time. (Suggested date and time: March 1, 2012, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX). Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 15-6 of the City Code phasing in a prohibition of single-use carryout bags within the city limits. (Suggested date and time: March 1, 2012, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.). Set a public hearing to consider the use of approximately 2,027 square feet of land for construction, use, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the existing electric transmission lines for the Seaholm District Redevelopment and the new Central Library Project through dedicated parkland known as Town Lake Shoal Beach and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, in accordance with Sec. 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. (Suggested date and time, February 9, 2012, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

‘Ma Ellen’ Sworn in for Second Term, Renews Call for Reconciliation

Special to the NNPA from the Global Information Network

Jan. 17 (GIN) –

Liberia’s Nobel peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took the oath of office for a second term in the presidency in a lavish \$1.2-million ceremony attended by Vice President Hillary Clinton and hundreds of guests and dignitaries.

Thousands looked on from the grounds of the capitol building as the 73-year-old grandmother pledged to uphold the constitution. “We have earned our rightful place as a beacon of democracy, a country of hope and of opportunity,” Sirleaf said. “The cleavages that led to decades of war still run deep



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Courtesy of the Global Information Network)

but so too does the longing for reconciliation.”

Six years ago, the newly-elected Sirleaf – informally called “Ma Ellen” – vowed to make graft “public enemy number one”, but the Harvard-trained president said she soon realized that Liberia’s corruption-endemic society could not be changed in one term.

“We now will move very quickly on the punishment side through our judicial reform, taking cases to court,” Sirleaf told The Associated Press in a pre-inauguration interview.

Sirleaf said the nation needed a process of national healing not defined “by tribe, region, religions or ethnicity but by equality of opportunity and a better future for every Liberian”.

In the years since Sirleaf took office, the country added nearly 3,500 miles of paved roads. Children under the age of 5 are dying at half the rate they were before, and people are earning almost double what they made when she was first elected, according to reports.

Bill Spelman kicks off Campaign

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On January 17, 2012, Council member Bill Spelman held his reelection campaign kick off. In front of friends and family member, Bill Spelman announced his intention to run for another term. Moreover, Bill Spelman is running for election due to the fact there is still work to be done, in order, to make Austin a better place. According to Bill Spelman, “Austin’s economy may be doing better than most cities”, but wages are still flat and jobs are still scarce. We need to be sure we’re stretching our tax dollars just as far as they can go, to provide residents with the best city services at an affordable cost.”

Bill Spelman was a member Police Executive

Research Forum (1979-1988); senior research associate Texas Institute for Public Problem Solving (1977-2005), executive director LBJ School of Public Affairs; UT (1988-present), professor. From 1997 to 2000, he was elected as a member of the Austin City Council. While on the City Council, Spelman championed downtown development, neighborhood-based service delivery, performance measurement, and civilian oversight of police operations. Moreover, Bill Spelman has consistently voted on issues that would move Austin forward and make it a better city.

Moreover, Bill Spelman was one of the council member who

voted for the Nathaniel Sanders settlement. He has voted against the Water 4 treatment plant. According to Bill Spelman, “He voted against building a new water treatment plant because I couldn’t rationalize spending \$500 million plus interest on a massive piece of infrastructure that we might need some day. Looking back over the past 30 years, Austinites have consistently decreased their per capita water use.” Finally, Bill Spelman is “committed to working on policies that positively impact the traditionally disenfranchised and minority groups in our community, and have been a leader on moving these issues to the forefront of the City’s agenda.”



Concert is FREE! Donations Accepted



AFRICAN CHILDRENS CHOIR
with guest dance ministry
Worship in Motion
from Agape Christian Ministries

Friday, January 27th

at
7:00 PM

Wesley United Methodist
1164 San Bernard St
Austin, TX 78702

Sponsored by
Waste Cooking Oil Brokers LLC

For more information - (512) 297-8784

www.africanchildrenschoir.com

Helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow

Better than
the tooth fairy.



Medicaid and CHIP families now get to choose a dental plan for their kids. Enroll in MCNA Dental and get a \$10 Walmart gift card that you can use for dental supplies. MCNA offers full Medicaid and CHIP benefits, plus value-added services.

February 10 is the deadline to choose, so enroll in MCNA Dental now. And get ready to smile.

Visit mcnatx.net for more information.

mcnadental

CALL 1-800-964-2777 (FOR MEDICAID)
OR 1-877-543-7669 (FOR CHIP) TO ENROLL.

Walmart is a registered trademark of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. MCNA is not related to Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.