

# lrf reston black focus

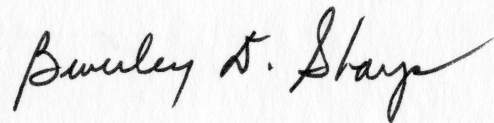
p.o. box 793 □ reston, virginia 22091

August 5, 1974

MEMO

TO: Steering Committee Members

FROM: Beverley D. Sharp, Chairperson



SUBJECT: Preparations for August 12 Meeting

In preparation for our next meeting, please review:

- the minutes of the July 16 meeting so that we may deal with corrections and/or additions only;
- the current charter and bylaws so that we may determine which areas need immediate attention and guide the amendment task force in their deliberations.

Also, please be thinking about one person to recommend for serving on either the Elections Committee or the Charter/Bylaws Amendment Task Force.

Thank you.

## RESTON BLACK FOCUS

Steering Committee Meeting  
July 16, 1974, 7:30 p.m.  
Home of Beverley Sharp

Present: Bradley, Gilmore, Robinson, Sharp, Summney, Thomas, Turner,  
Kathy Lamkin

Minutes of the June 24 meeting were approved with two corrections.

Human Rights Ordinance. Kathy Lamkin reported on the July 15 hearing.

Most of the testimony was for women. Two individuals testified against the ordinance: 1) Tax Payers Alliance

2) Fair Housing (concerned that they may  
get scooped up).

Kathy testified on behalf of Reston Black Focus (see Attachment 1).

She feels that "something" will pass and that it is important for Reston Black Focus to gain continuing visibility before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the School Board. For the record-- a copy of the Reston Times announcement of Jim Scott's presentation and editorial, Attachments 2 & 3.

NEXT MEETING. Scheduled for August 12, 8:00 p.m. at the home of Laura Thomas.

ANTI-POVERTY FUNDS. The Board of Supervisors decided to maintain administrative control over the dispersal of federal anti-poverty funds within the county. Under this plan, funding of the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association is likely to continue.

INCORPORATION. Bradley presented some preliminary information:

1) Incorporation means no one is personally liable  
for anything that happens at a Focus function.

2) We can then be considered for tax-exempt status.

Sharp has talked with Mike Horwatt, a lawyer, whose firm will do the job for us for a nominal fee. Thomas felt that we should examine



all the IRS materials before we decide to become a tax exempt organization. Mike Horwatt will come to the general meeting, Tuesday July 30 and present all aspects of incorporation. It was unanimously decided that we should proceed with incorporation and application for tax exemption as soon as possible, subject to a referendum at the July 30 meeting.

BULK MAILING. Doris Gilmore reported that:

- 1) a \$15.00 filing fee is required.
- 2) a \$30.00 annual fee is due each January 1.
- 3) minimum 200 pieces must be mailed at a time.
- 4) non-profit rate = \$0.018/piece.
- 5) an account of \$50.00 must be maintained at Post Office.
- 6) we must certify that we are a non-profit organization.
- 7) it would cost approximately \$4.20 to mail the monthly newsletter as opposed to \$25.00 (250 copies).

The steps we need to follow are:

- 1) incorporation
- 2) tax exempt status--federal, state, county
- 3) apply for non-profit bulk rate stamp

#### FESTIVAL

BUDGET AND FINANCE PROCEDURES. Doris Gilmore presented plan discussed by Festival Finance Committee. Howard Robinson suggested that all contracts for the festival be submitted to the Festival Committee for review. The contracts should be screened in terms of potential utility for other committees since there is a need to keep costs down. The procedure agreed upon is as follows:

- 1) Howard Robinson will receive all contracts/<sup>via committee chairmen</sup>, review them; he will initial approved contracts and pass them to the Finance Committee.

- 2) Upon approval, two members of the Finance Committee will sign the contract.
- 3) The Finance Committee will keep one copy; Mary Butler/Gloria Johnson will keep one copy for the Festival Committee and return one copy to originating committee chairperson.

GENERAL REPORT. Sharp needs all the names and addresses of people on all festival committees so that they can be personally thanked for their efforts. An information booth/message center will be set up at the festival to facilitate communication, principally for the benefit of committees.

CONFERENCE PLANS. Keynote panel of 4-

Floyd McKissick, developer of Soul City

John Cole, architect

Carl Holman, National Urban Coalition

Martha Penninno, Fairfax County Supervisor

Doug Gary, United Planning Organization

Maxine Wallace, Professor at Howard

Sarah Austin, National Urban Coalition

Luncheon speaker-Barbara Jordan, Barbara Sizemore, or Sargent Shriver

OTHER COMMITTEES. Theater committee and public relations committees are working well. A press release will go out Monday. We need the work on the program booklet to begin soon. Gulf Reston will take an ad and aid in/the publicity release. Mr. Robinson stressed that after the July 30 meeting, he will narrow festival meetings to about seven or eight core people (committee chairpeople). This will eliminate long explanations to newcomers. Mr. Robinson is quite impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the various committee chairmen.



BENEFICIARY. There has still been no choice of the beneficiary of festival funds. Mr. Robinson explained the Ralph Bunche Awards Program (which trains blacks for international work) as a possible recipient. We need to know shortly where the money is going in order to facilitate selling tickets. The Festival Committee will decide who shall be the recipient (since they are doing all the work), with endorsement by the general membership on July 30.

NEW BUSINESS

STATIONERY. New stationery will be printed with enough for the Festival Committee. It will read Reston Black Focus, Inc., if Mike Horwatt says this is alright. Sharp will handle right away.

MEMBERSHIP. For the record: the booklet, questionnaire, and newsletter sent to membership. We should insert copy of all material sent to members (newsletters, etc.) into the record, as normal procedure. Membership cards will be printed and ready for the July 30 meeting. In Welch's absence, Sharp will handle.

ELECTION. Sharp outlined a plan for the November election, to be presented at July 30 meeting. Election committee and charter/<sup>/bylaws</sup> amendment task force should be selected in August. Hearings on amendments in September. Proposed amendments and slate of nominees complete by October 15, so that ballots can be mailed to paid members with the November newsletter.

COUNTY NO-GROWTH POLICY. Bev Sharp urged that we send a letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voicing our concern about the sewer moratorium and the no-growth policy as it affects the development of Reston. No action.

ADJOURNED 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bradley, Secretary

My name is Kathrynne Lamkin. I've been a resident of the County for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  years. I'm speaking in behalf of the Reston organization, Black Focus which represents over 200 Black families in Reston.

We strongly support the proposed Human Rights Ordinance and urge its passage in the strongest form possible. It is very encouraging to us to see our County government taking affirmative action and giving positive support to the issues of human rights.

It is because of this that we would stress the necessity of these following 3 points:

1. The Human Rights Commission must have cease and desist power; the power to subpoena and investigate. We already have too many ordinances and laws in this Country that are useless because there are no powers with which to enforce them. To create another such ordinance in Fairfax County in 1974 would make mockery of the positive action the County has taken.

We do not feel the subpoena power will be abused. It will be strong encouragement for recalcitrant parties to sit down to the mediation table. The Fair Housing Commission has been in existence for approximately 6 years. It has the power to subpoena. In that 6 years the Commission has issued subpoenas less than 1 dozen times. No case has gone to court.

2. It's equally important that the Commission have the staff and money to run effectively its program. We feel that Fairfax County can do no less than Montgomery and Prince George Counties. We support a budget of approximately \$150,000 and a staff of 4 to 6 professionals and 2 clerical workers.
3. Some have questioned the need for a local ordinance since there are state and Federal laws which cover some of the same areas. We feel that violations of human rights should be dealt with efficiently and expeditiously. Having local redress affords this. State and Federal mediation procedures may take months and sometimes years to deal with violations and violators.

If enforced with reasonable diligence this ordinance should begin to rid the County of the more subtle and insidious forms of Institutional Racism against minorities, women, young and older citizens. We urge its passage.

K.M. Lamkin



Attachment 2

## Supervisors To Consider Human Rights Ordinance

*Reston Times 7/4/74*

On July 15 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will consider adding to the County Code a Human Rights Ordinance put together by an ad hoc citizens committee convened by Supervisor James Scott. Prior to that meeting, Scott will address the issue on Thursday, July 11 at a public forum sponsored by Reston's Black Focus. The open session, during which Scott will make a 20-minute presentation to be followed by a question and answer period, will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the Glade room. Petitions for the adoption of the ordinance will also be available.

The Human Rights Ordinance, as proposed, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, marital status, political opinion, personal appearance or age in housing, public accommodations, employment, County services, education and credit facilities. In addition, the ordinance establishes a Human Rights Commission empowered to enforce the regulations of the ordinance. A separate resolution accompanying the ordinance covers activities of County employees and those holding County contracts. The ordinance and Commission if passed by the Board will replace the present Fair Housing Ordinance and Fair Housing Board.

Behind the ordinance is the conviction on the part of its authors that the County has an obligation to assume the initiative in instituting an affirmative human rights program to eliminate discrimination and provide citizens recourse for discriminatory acts.

Areas of concern include: real estate transactions, leases and restrictive covenants; credit and loan practices; firing and advancement practices;

membership in labor organizations; educational conditions, benefits and services (Applications attempting to elicit information concerning race or color, for example, are prohibited, as are required photographs. Quota systems are barred as is discriminatory recruitment); and public accommodations.

Provision for exceptions included for religious organizations and those offering housing for the elderly, for a particular age or marital status or for members of one sex.

The ordinance was put together by an ad hoc citizens committee including, in addition to Scott, members of the Commission on Women, the Council on Human Relations, the ACLU and the NAACP. Supervisor Martha Pennino also participated.

Under the separate Board resolution pertaining to County employees and services, employees, including police officers and those involved with the criminal justice system, are barred from discriminating on the above bases in terms of services, access to facilities, treatment in incarceration, bail bonds or rehabilitation opportunities. Complaints concerning County employees or services will be investigated by the Commission with the approval of the Board of Supervisors and any Commission findings or recommendations will be forwarded to the Board for action.

As proposed the Human Rights Commission will be charged with the elimination of discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment, education, credit facilities and County services by initiating investigations, and affirmative action programs, under the ordinance, and handling citizen complaints of discrimination by

investigation, negotiating and enforcing its decisions. It will have power to subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance at hearings; utilize methods of conciliation and mediation of grievances; hold public hearings; investigate complaints or conditions deemed to have an adverse effect upon the rights protected under the ordinance; and to gather and disseminate information about discrimination and human rights problems in the County.

Investigations of violations of the ordinance may be initiated by the Commission itself, as well as through citizen complaints, an important addition to the powers of the present Fair Housing Board. Conciliation, upon the request of affected parties, may be initiated by the Commission and can result in consent orders signed by all affected parties. More formal proceedings, including public hearings, may be initiated following conciliation attempts, or through the Executive Director if he or she deems it necessary.

If the persons involved are found to have committed illegal acts under the ordinance, they can be served orders to cease and desist, or initiate affirmative action to change the conditions in violation. The Commission can require payment of damages to the injured party. Such orders can, if requested, be reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction. If any party refuses to comply with any order of the Commission, the Commission may refer the matter to the County Attorney for appropriate legal action.

Questions regarding the July 11 Black Focus forum featuring Scott should be referred to Carol Bradley at 620-9873.

Attachment 3

## Human Rights

RESTON TIMES  
JUNE 11, 1974

Within the next week or so, Fairfax County will decide whether to adopt a proposed Human Rights Ordinance which would permit the County to assume the initiative in instituting an affirmative human rights program to eliminate discrimination and provide citizens recourse against discriminatory acts.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance is scheduled for Monday, July 25, 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Massey Building, and a public meeting featuring the ordinance's sponsor, Providence Supervisor James M. Scott is scheduled for tonight, 8:00, in the Glade Room. At the latter, Mr. Scott will explain the provisions and intent of the ordinance.

It would appear that with the several amendments to the U.S. constitution and with the new Virginia constitution, the necessity for a Human Rights Ordinance is questionable. It would be, but for one or two critical considerations.

First, adoption of the human rights ordinance as proposed by the authors places Fairfax County in the laudable posture of affirmative support of rather than defensive reaction to issues of human rights. Such an ordinance puts County residents and County employees on notice that the County government is sensitive to potential violations of human rights, and, more important, that

actual violations are adjudged intolerable.

Related to that is the consideration that there are some human rights-type issues better dealt with locally and expeditiously. The ordinance as drafted would permit aggrieved citizens a facility of complaint considerably more readily available than the vast bureaucracies of the Commonwealth and the federal government.

And, certainly, resolution of local issues of human rights locally, in full view of one's fellow citizens raises sensitivities to potential abrogations, inadvertent or intended, and may stave off the polarization often caused by solutions imposed from without.

Hopefully, an adopted human rights ordinance could remedy whatever discriminatory ills beset Fairfax County. To do so, the ordinance must be enforced and enforceable. If enforced with reasonable diligence, a human rights ordinance, through the aforementioned heightened awareness, can go a long way toward elimination of the more covert, insidious forms of discrimination that the divorced, the single, the elderly, the black, the handicapped and the foreign accented have suffered.

Fairfax County should have a human rights ordinance, provided it can be and is enforced.



Carol Bradley  
2305 Old Trail Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091

620-9873

Doris Gilmore  
11931 Travistock Court  
Reston, Virginia 22091

860-0170  
471-5950

Charles Smith  
1405 Earnshaw Court  
Reston, Virginia 22090

437-4323  
227-1358

Clarestine Summey  
1572 Cameron Crescent Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22090

471-4484

Laura Thomas  
2506 Gold Cup Lane  
Reston, Virginia 22091

860-2360

Sylvia Turner  
2437 Freetown Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091

620-9661

Eileen Welch  
11056 Saffold Way  
Reston, Virginia 22090

437-7909

Beverley D. Sharp  
2502 Gold Cup Lane  
Reston, Virginia 22091

860-1163

Howard Robinson  
1684 Wainwright Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22090

471-9349  
632-7661