

**Ward Eight Democrats, Inc.
Business Meeting
July 18, 2015**

Present: Natalie Williams, President, Theresa Kelly, Recording Secretary, Deloris Walker, Corresponding Secretary, Charles Wilson, Committeeman, Darryl Ross, Treasurer, Mary Cuthbert, Committeewoman, Barbara Jones, Vice President, Trayon White, 2nd Vice President, Arnehl Lyon, Anthony Muhammad ,Tierra Jolley and LaRuby May, Councilmember.

Excused: Sheila Bunn, (At- Large),

Unexcused: Phillip Panell , Committeeman, Wanda Lockridge, Committeewoman, Arrington Dixon, National Committee,) and Marcus Batchelor.

Ward Eight Business Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm	
Determination of a Quorum	A quorum was not established at 12:04 pm.	
	<p>Natalie Williams greeted the Body of Democrats and stated that the Agenda is very simple. The special guest is Councilmember Vincent Orange. Natalie greeted the panel. The panel included Department Heads from DCRA. They included: Ronnie Edwards, Deputy Director of the Department of Small and Local Business Development, Deborah Carroll, Director of Employment Services, Sally from AIFA, Eric Rogers, Chief of Staff, and Melinda Bolling , Director, and a representative from the Alcohol and Beverages Association..</p> <p>Natalie gave updates of the Ward 8 Democrats organization and where it is at this point. The Convention is scheduled for September 19, 2015. A new Administration will be elected at that time. Bernadette Tolson will chair the Convention. She will appoint</p>	

others to make up the Nominating committee. Savoy, Thurgood Marshall, KIPP and Congress Heights schools are being considered for hosting the Convention. Natalie will make sure that the information is sent out to the Public. She asked everyone to put the date of the Convention on the calendar.

Persons who are running for Office will make it known during the next couple of weeks. The vacancies include: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer.

Natalie addressed some questions from the audience, concerning the involvement of the General Business Body, the Website, Gala and Convention.

Ward Eight Democrats now own the Ward8Democrats.com website. The website will now be owned by the Organization and not an individual. All information will be posted on the website.

Natalie discussed the invitation to the Marion S. Barry Gala. The Executive Committee met and discussed the opportunity for the Ward Eight Democrats to shine and honor the late Councilmember Marion S. Barry. This Event was developed two weeks ago. Cora Master Barry was very receptive and offered to support the event in any way possible. Councilwoman LaRuby May was also reached out to and will aid with strategies to make the event a success.

The upcoming Marion S. Barry Gala will be held on August 20, 2015, at the Boys and Girls Club in the gymnasium, beginning at 7pm. This is an opportunity to raise money for the organization. The organization's fundraiser will honor our former Councilmember.

There will be three Committees : The Hospitality committee will be Chaired by Vice President, Barbara Jones. The Development Committee will be Chaired by Kendell Bill.

This committee will determine the time, location and the "Nuts and Bolts" of it.

The Awards committee will be Chaired by Bernadette Tolson. The categories include:

- Democratic Man and Woman of the Year
- Democratic Business of the Year
- Democratic Lifetime Achievement
- Democratic Councilmember

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Unsung Hero • President's Choice • Rising Democrat <p>The Email address for the Event is: Ward8AwardsDinner@gmail.com</p> <p>Sponsorship Levels include:</p> <p>Underwriter.....\$4,000</p> <p>Democrat For Life.....\$2,500</p> <p>Red and White.....\$1,000</p> <p>Movers and Shakers.....\$450</p> <p>Friends.....\$100</p> <p>Individual Tickets.....\$50.00</p> <p>Ads.....\$250.00</p> <p>The Democrats were asked to join a committee and make it a success. Tickets are available in bundles of ten.</p> <p>The monies for the event will come out of a Sponsorship kit. The co-sponsor is William C. Smith, who will underwrite the cost of the location. Pepco will sponsor the food for \$4,000. Dantes Partner will sponsor \$2,000. Monies will go toward the success of this event.</p>	
	<p>Councilmember Vincent Orange was greeted and welcomed him to the Democrats. Councilmember Vincent Orange gave the Council's perspective and shared and gave updates. He is working on Bills that affect us in the Community. Some of the Bills that were discussed include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Tuition College.....It costs less than 10 million to provide free tuition for students in a two year college pursuing an Associates Degree. We want to keep young people here to be able to compete with everyone else. • Summer Youth program for ages 22-24. The cost for this program is over five million. There are 465 people in this category. The goal is to get them into permanent jobs. • Department of Employment Services....Employers are educated about the law 	

about wages, employee protection and policies and procedures.

- **CD's Contractors.....We must build capacity in DC. By October 1, 2015, Thirty-five percent must be set aside for CD's. Quality products must be established. It was suggested that the Contracts, Waivers and Compliances be looked into and corrected where necessary. Changes are being made in the Law.**
- **DCRA.....Issue fines and work order and make sure that construction is legal and in compliance. There is a proposal that "noise" from businesses that affects residents (amplified music) at 50 feet away or heard after midnight from others be fined a fee. Goal is " compliance".**
- **Empowerment Program.....Some employers abuse the program. Vincent Orange is asked to look into the structure of the program.**
- **ABC Board.....There has been sixty-four compliant checks and twelve violations in Ward 7 and 8. In solving problems, Mediation is mandatory.**
- **Grant Gift.....Ward 8 has a Grant gift of \$85,00 for Black and Minority businesses. Initiatives can be done, but ground work must be made.**
- **DC Taxicab.....There is no money on a Bill to protect the DC Taxicab Commission. Cab drivers pay 8% to operate as compared to others who pay 1%.**
- **Pop-Ups.....In row houses, an additional floor (vertical additions), cannot be over 35 feet.**

We are about to receive 2.1 billion dollars that should be spent in our communities. Councilman Orange advised us to become involved in how monies are being funded in the budget and to put pressure on folks to let them know that we are watching and following the dollars.

Those who are interested in the Councilman's report can call his Office.

	<p>Announcements: DC National Convention 2016 "Justice or Else" Platform Join the Friends Library program</p> <p>Treasury Report: Darryl Ross shared the Treasury report. The balance is \$6,260.64.</p>	
	<p>The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm</p>	
	<p>Respectfully submitted by Theresa Kelly, Recording Secretary Natalie Williams, President</p>	

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