

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

December 17, 2007

Special candidate interview session of the Metro Washington Council's Executive Board called to order at 3:15P

- Metro Council President Jos Williams said that both Congressman Al Wynn and candidate Donna Edwards would be interviewed and a decision then made on who to recommend to the Maryland/DC AFL-CIO for endorsement in Maryland's 4th District.

Congressman Wynn Interview

President Williams introduced Congressman Wynn, who cited his "strong pro-labor track record" and did not go into extensive detail "since that's outlined in my responses to the Council questionnaire." Congressman Wynn noted that he's "had the opportunity to be on the frontlines of some organizing campaigns and has never missed a chance to be there for organized labor, legislatively and in the community."

- Many questions and a discussion on the controversy between the Prince George's Democratic Central Committee (PGDCC) and the labor community ensued. Congressman Wynn said he pushed for a letter of apology, which was forthcoming. That did not solve the problem, but he helped facilitate this. Answer may be higher than the PGDCC. Other questions in-

cluded issues related to the Prince George's County Hospital, charter schools, No Child Left Behind and Social Security, as well as transportation. Also discussed immigration issues & health care. Congressman Wynn said that "Both are issues that will require a Democratic President to move forward." In conclusion, Congressman Wynn asked for labor support, saying there are a lot of key issues he's involved with and cited his seniority and influence in what would be his 8th term.

Donna Edwards Interview

- President Williams introduced Donna Edwards, candidate for the 4th Congressional District in Maryland, and Adrian Christian, her campaign manager. Ms. Edwards introduced herself, noting that she's lived and worked in the district for years. Also worked for one point – when she got out of law school – for Congressman Wynn and ran as a first-time candidate two years ago. "A long-time gut supporter of labor and unions," Ms. Edwards said that she'll "always be there for workers" because she is one – "and I'm a believer" -- not because it's politically necessary or expedient.

- Ms. Edwards addressed a wide range of issues, including healthcare, No Child Left Behind, and how she is going to win in 2008, when Congressman Wynn has been

working the district hard since she gave him "the scare of his career" in 2006. She also addressed the question of her experience, the Prince George's County Hospital issue and privatization of public sector work. Said that it's unacceptable that the PG DCC leadership is in conflict with organized labor (applause) and that this begins at the top.

Discussion of Recommendations

- Following the candidate presentations, President Williams welcomed all present to a discussion of endorsements, noting that the State AFL-CIO makes the actual endorsements based on recommendations made by the Council. UFCW Local 400's Mark Federici noted the presence of a number of Local 400's staff and members, who he'd invited to observe the process of the Labor Council, which he said Local 400 supports deeply.

- Debate ensued. UFCW 400's Federici spoke passionately about Congressman's Wynn's lack of real support for worker issues and organized labor.

- Chuck Graham, IBEW 26, spoke strongly in support of Congressman Wynn as someone with power and seniority.

- Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500, spoke of Edwards ability to

Attendance:

Present: Jos Williams, Gwend Johnson, Linda Bridges, Dan Dyer, John Boardman, Roxie Herbekian, Fred Allen, Faith Jones, Doris Reed, Sandra Falwell, Nathan Saunders, Jim Pappas, Randolph Scott, Tommy Ratliff, Sonny Reed, Jackie Jeter, Jerry Lozupone, Chuck Graham, Gino Renne, Mark Federici, Merle Cuttitta, Lou Cernak, Carl Goldman, Anthony Frederick Sr.
Excused: Bob Campbell, Eric Bunn, George Johnson.

Guests: Anthony Garland (ATU 689), Roland Jeter (ATU 689), Larry Hawkins (Teamsters 639), Anthony Pinder (Teamsters 639), John Nixon (ATU 689), Richard Putney (AFSCME 2250), Jim Shearer (AFSCME 2250), Charly Carter (UNITE HERE Joint Board), Tony Perez (UFCW 400), Jimmy Allen (ATU 689), Lavioris Harris (UFCW 400), Fred Horn (UFCW 400), Dietra Lucas (UFCW 400), Donald Cash Jr. (UFCW 400), Chuck Foulter (UFCW 400), Mike Hammett (UFCW 400), Carol Wisynski (UFCW 400), Greg Burton (UFCW 400)

Staff: Kathleen McKirchy, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell.

do the job.

- It was moved and seconded to recommend endorsement of Al Wynn in the 4th Congressional District. Passed with 3 votes against – including Mark Federici (UFCW 400) and Merle Cuttitta (SEIU 500) -- and one abstention (Gino Renne, UFCW 1994).

Official board meeting called to order at 5:53P

November minutes accepted as

distributed.

November financial report accepted as distributed.

Correspondence

- \$500 recommended for Georgetown University student proposal to fund "Sweatshops at Home and Abroad" class

- \$250 recommended for Comptroller Peter Franchot's recent 60th birthday party event.

- \$200 recommended for Jews United for Justice annual membership drive.

- \$500 recommended for DC Fiscal Policy Institute support for "Research That Matters" to DC residents.

- filed request for contribution to Maryland House Democratic Committee January 3 breakfast.

Other correspondence

- Montgomery County Delegate Herman L. Taylor, Jr. thanked the Council for its contribution of \$500 for his Fifth Annual Old Fashioned Backyard Barbeque.

- Boilermakers Local 193 Scholarship Committee thanked the Council for its generous support of \$300 for their annual dinner-dance held on 11/17/07.

- Sheet Metal Workers Local 100 thanked the Council for \$250 in support of the 18th Annual James E. Killeen, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament.

- DC Vote thanked the Council for a \$500 contribution in support of the 7th annual Champions of Democracy Awards Reception.

- Maryland Delegate Kumar Barve thanking the Council for the \$250 contribution to his re-election campaign

Evening With Labor

President Williams and Kathleen McKirchy reported:
 - Hope to honor Congressman Steny Hoyer as a draw. President Williams to appoint JC Turner Committee; Gino Renne, UFCW 1994, to Chair; members include John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25, Lou Cernak, IUOE 99, Fred Allen, GCC-IBT 538-C, and Jimmy Allen, ATU 689. Need award recommendations as soon as possible so the nominees can be included in the mailing. Question raised about the high profile afforded politicians when it's labor that should be showcased.

Community Services

Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:
 - There's already been good response to the 2008 Bowling tournament on 1/27/08. Requested 2008 contributions from locals to the Emergency Fund, so their members will be eligible to access help. She also reported that CSA has been finishing up with the 2007 Holiday Basket program.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock reported:
 - Busy year, thanking everyone for all the reports for UNION CITY, and saying that "we look forward to an even more active year in 2008." Also reported that he will be coordinating a recommendation for a new online mobilization political and fundraising contact management system at the January meeting.

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- Board endorsement recommendation of Al Wynn in 4th Congressional District; those who voted "no" asked to have their votes recorded. More discussion/debate ensued on PGDCC controversy and concern about impact on labor in Prince George's County and whether labor is asking too little in demands for respect by the Democrats.

- DC school reform: "We've been sandbagged by City Council Chair Vincent Gray, who's come up with a worse bill than the Mayor's." Powell reported that Chairman Gray "may try to put this through as emergency legislation, which would be implemented immediately" and labor is now trying to deny him the nine votes he needs. "If the Chancellor gets this power, other school administrators will be going after it right away, so this isn't just about DC."

-President Williams ended the meeting by thanking Gwend Johnson, CBTU-DC, for providing the food and drinks at today's meeting.

Adjourned 6:45P