



Seattle Medium SIFF Movie Review: The Signal

- Page 8

Charter Schools Present Post-'Brown' Challenge

- Page 6



Democrats May Block Obama's Judicial Nominees

- Page 2

The Seattle Medium

A Message From The People... To The People

\$.25

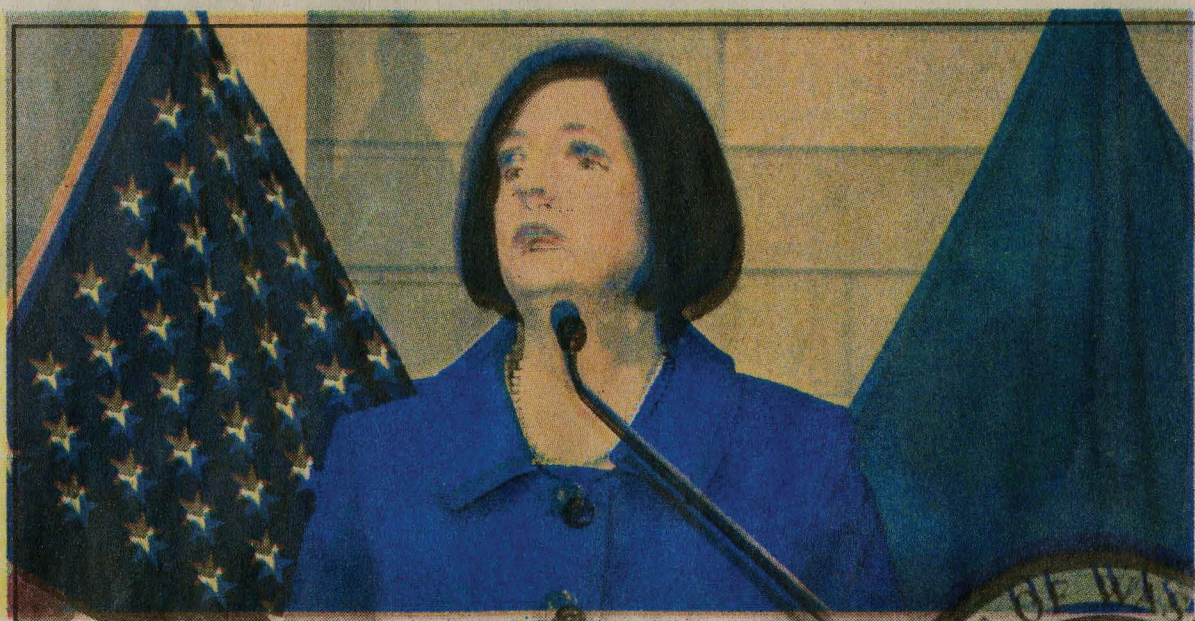
VOLUME 45, NUMBER 21

NOW IN OUR 45TH YEAR

(206) 323-3070

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014

Murray Nominates O'Toole For Seattle Police Chief



Kathleen O'Toole addresses the media at a press conference announcing her nomination as Seattle Police Chief. If confirmed by the Seattle City Council, O'Toole will be the first woman to head SPD.

On Monday, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced Kathleen O'Toole as his nominee for chief of the Seattle Police Department.

O'Toole, a career police officer and lawyer, has earned an international reputation for her principled leadership and reform strategies. In 2012, O'Toole completed a six-year term as Chief Inspector of the Gardia Síochána Inspectorate, an oversight body responsible for bringing reform, best practice and accountability to the 17,000 member Irish national police service. Prior to serving in Ireland, O'Toole rose through the ranks of local and state policing in the United States. During her career, she was assigned to numerous patrol, investigative, undercover, supervisory and management positions. She served as Superintendent (Chief) of the Metropolitan District Commission Police and Lieutenant Colonel overseeing Special Operations in the Massachusetts State Police. She was later appointed Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety (1994) and Boston Police Commissioner (2004). She was the first woman appointed to all of these senior positions.

"I made a commitment to find the best possible chief of police for Seattle, and that's exactly what I have found in Kathleen O'Toole," said Murray.

Inslee Wants To Wean Electric Utilities Off Coal

By Phoung Le
Associated Press

(AP) - With an abundant supply of hydroelectric power, Washington state currently gets less than 14 percent of its electricity from coal.

Gov. Jay Inslee wants to take that down to zero over time.

To wean the state off coal-generated power, the Democratic governor will have to persuade

"The Seattle police department deserves the best leadership possible to drive ongoing reform efforts - not for the sake of reform, and not even for the sake of compliance with the federal court, but because all individuals in this city deserve to feel safe and protected in their communities. We can be a national model for urban policing, and Kathleen O'Toole is the right choice to lead us there."

O'Toole's selection by Murray has been well received by many in the community including many members of the Seattle City Council, who are now charged with confirming her as the next police chief.

Seattle City Councilmember Bruce Harrell said that he is looking for a new chief that will, among other things, embrace and implement new technologies like body cameras to enhance police accountability and public safety, and who will communicate and engage with minority communities and ensure the diversity of Seattle's neighborhoods are well represented in the department.

"I had the opportunity to meet Ms. O'Toole during the preliminary interview process, and she impressed me with her proven record in changing and reforming a department, her confidence, and her ability to lead and inspire officers," said

Harrell. "The Council's Public Safety committee will now conduct a thorough and transparent confirmation process and consider public feedback at each committee hearing. Council will turn over every rock to ensure this is the bold, transformative leader Seattle is looking for in its next Police Chief."

The time frame for O'Toole's possible confirmation is expected to be near the end of June. This process includes two appearances by O'Toole before the Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee on June 4 and June 25; a public hearing on June 12; and an appearance before the full council for possible confirmation on June 30.

"I am humbled and excited to have this extraordinary opportunity," said O'Toole, who, if confirmed, would be Seattle's first female chief of police. "I look forward to working with Mayor Murray, members of the Seattle Police Department and the community to restore trust and develop a police service second to none."

Interim Chief Harry Bailey will continue in his role during the Council confirmation process for O'Toole.

Murray has asked the council to approve a salary of \$250,000 for O'Toole.

the state's three private electric utilities - Puget Sound Energy, Pacific Power and Avista Corp. - to reduce or eliminate electricity they get from plants in Montana and Wyoming.

The utilities say coal-fired electricity is reliable and cost-effective and only part of a diverse portfolio that includes hydropower, natural gas and wind, and for now coal appears

to be a part of their long-term energy plans.

Saying the state has a moral responsibility to act on climate change, Inslee signed an executive order last month directing state agencies to negotiate with utilities to phase out electricity produced from coal.

New NAACP President Says His Strength Is Among The Grassroots

By Hazel Trice Edney

(Trice Edney Wire) - Underscoring the fact that the NAACP has been a grassroots organization for its 105 years of existence, new NAACP President Cornell William Brooks, this week, said that has been and will continue to be his strength.

"The NAACP, as a matter of history, tradition, culture, political effectiveness and advocacy, is a grassroots organization. The power and the promise and potential of the NAACP lie not at the headquarters in Baltimore, but at the branches and state conferences. It is there that I have quite a bit of experience in terms of state level advocacy," said Brooks.

The NAACP National Board of Directors announced its selection of Brooks, an attorney and social justice advocate, on May 17. He is the eighteenth chief executive leader of the national headquarters, replacing interim leader Lorraine Miller, who has served as interim president since Benjamin Todd Jealous ended his five-year tenure late last year. Brooks will be formally introduced to NAACP members in July during its annual convention in Las Vegas.

"We are proud to welcome Attorney Cornell William Brooks as our new president and CEO," said Roslyn M. Brock, NAACP board chair. "Mr. Brooks is a pioneering lawyer and civil rights leader, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Association. We look forward to leveraging his legal prowess, vision and leadership as we tackle the pressing civil rights issues of the 21st century."

Brooks, 53, is currently president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, based in Newark. He points to his work with this urban research and advocacy organization as being among the places where he cut his teeth in grassroots advocacy.

He described working with "mayors, with council people to cast - what the New York Times called - 'model for the country legislation,'" he said, describing his work on policies affecting



New NAACP President/CEO Cornell William Brooks

people who have served time in prison, but who desire to drop their descriptions of ex-offenders in order to become "taxpayers, homeowners, mothers, fathers, and responsible members of this community and this Republic. That's where I cut my teeth - at the state level, helping to secure state level legislation to help address the foreclosure crisis in the state of New Jersey."

Brooks said although he has done "most of my work at the state level and local level," he said he is also "more than well-equipped" to do the significant federal, legislative, and judicial work that is required by the NAACP.

"I started off my career at the Federal Communications Commission, at the Justice Department, at the national Lawyers Committee [for Civil Rights Under Law]. Having spent 20 years in civil rights and social justice advocacy, being well aware of the issues around income inequality around the juvenile and criminal justice system, and work force development."

These are among what the NAACP often calls its "bread and butter" issues. Brooks notes that he started his career as a federal litigator in Texas, Florida and Ohio on behalf of the U. S. Department of Justice and the Lawyers Committee. "So, I certainly have an appreciation for the national landscape in terms of civil rights litigation.

But, where I have done most of my work is in the very place where most of the work of the NAACP has been done. That is at the state level and the local level."

Brooks said he would immediately start talking to and listening to the NAACP's membership and board as he forms a vision for the organization's future.

"The NAACP has put together a very thoughtful strategic plan in terms of game changers for all Americans and civil rights" that Brooks said he will study as he prepares to lead. Those game changer issues include economic sustainability, education, health, public safety/criminal justice, and voting rights/political representation.

The announcement of Brooks' appointment came as the nation celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U. S. Supreme Court. That was the landmark decision that outlawed legal segregation in public schools. Brooks says that decision is a threshold for him.

"As a graduate of both Head Start and Yale Law School, I am a beneficiary, an heir and a grandson of the Brown verses Board of Education decision, whose sixtieth anniversary we just noted. And as such I am indebted to the legacy of the NAACP."

Normal Solid Waste Collections For Memorial Day

Seattle garbage, food and yard waste and recycling collections will be on normal schedule for Memorial Day, Mon., May 26. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) customers should place their containers out for collection by 7 a.m. to ensure

collection. Customers can report a Monday missed garbage, yard waste or recycling collection after 8 a.m. on Tuesday by calling (206) 684-3000 or by visiting SPU's web site at: www.seattle.gov/util.

The City of Seattle's South Transfer Station is open extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. The South Transfer Station is at 130 South Kenyon Street in South Park. Directions, station hours and traffic cams are at www.seattle.gov/util/dump.

Visit us online at the new and improved
seattlemedium.com