

Business

Hearing On King Ordinance September 28th

King County was renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Feb 24, 1986, making it the only county, out of 3,068 counties, named after Dr. King or any other African American.

The "King" the county was originally named for was William Rufus DeVane King, a slaveholding Senator from Alabama.

The Oregon Territorial legislature was trying to gain some points with the incoming white house team of newly elected president Franklin Pierce and King his newly elected Vice President. So they named Pierce County after the President and the County North of that after the Vice president.

King was ill with tuberculosis during the campaign and had to have a special ceremony to be sworn in. he never made it to Washington D.C. and died on his Alabama Plantation in April of 1853.

The original measure to change King county name was pushed by then Councilman Ron Sims. Now Councilman Larry Gossett wants the county to do more than put a small plaque over a Bank of elevators in the Administration building.

In a recent letter to Friends and supporters Councilman Gusset asked people to come out and support him at the September 28th hearing on the matter.

Dear Friend:

I am writing to ask for your support on what is shaping up to be one of the most controversial political battles to ever confront the metropolitan King County council. On January 18, 1999, at the 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Rally and march at Garfield High School, a crowd of 2,000 people challenged me to sponsor an ordinance to change

the King county logo from an imperial crown to one with an image of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Subsequently, on Monday, August 31st, I submitted ordinance 99-0472 relating to the County logo, "establishing a logo to include the likeness of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr."

Without broad-based community support it will be very difficult for me to influence the majority of King county councilmembers to support such a radical change. You can help support this logo change, to honor the most revered leader in the 20th century, in one or more of the following ways:

- 1) Write a letter to the Metropolitan (Martin Luther) King County Council expressing your support of Ordinance 99-0472. At the top of your letter please specifically request that the letter be distributed to all Councilmembers. Email a message of your support to all of the 13 Councilmembers.
- 2) Call your specific county councilmember and call the Council front desk (296-1000) to have your support recorded.

In addition, there will be a hearing regarding this ordinance on Tuesday, September 28, at 9:30 a.m. Please come with your friends to show your support by sitting in the audience and/or signing up to speak in support of this ordinance to the members of the Martin Luther King County Council's Management Labor and Customer Service Committee. This hearing will be in the Council Chambers, located on the tenth floor of the Martin Luther King County Courthouse, 516 3rd Ave.,



Seattle, WA.

Please make calls and send letters and e-mails TODAY!

Sincerely

Larry Gossett
Metropolitan (Martin Luther) King County
Council Member

District 10

The Mailing Address for the County is :
Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
Room 1200, 516 third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

"Over 2000 people urged Councilman Larry Gossett to push this measure during the MLK Celebration. Now we need to get all of them down to the Council chambers on September 28th to show our support for putting Martin Luther Kings Picture on everything in King County Government." Eddie Rye Jr, leader in changing Empire way to MLK way, founder of annual MLK March, Reg. VP Nat. Black Chamber.

Seattle Housing Authority Advertising for Small Works Roster

We are inviting contractors, who are interested in doing business with SHA, to submit applications in order to be included in the SHA's Small Works Roster. The roster is used for small works projects with an estimated construction cost of less than \$40,000, and are locally or state-funded. To obtain an application form, please contact Rod Olzendam, Purchasing Division, telephone (206) 615-3378, fax (206) 615-3410, e-mail address: rolzendam@sea.pha.org.

Black Church Group Picks New Leader

By KAREN L. SHAW—Associated Press Writer—

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A Philadelphia minister who promised to reform the leadership of the nation's largest black church group was elected president of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc. on Thursday night.

The Rev. William Shaw beat 10 other candidates to succeed the Rev. Henry J. Lyons, the minister imprisoned for using the powerful position to bilk and steal more than \$4 million from companies and organizations so he could live in luxury.

In the wake of that scandal, Shaw called for the next president to share his power with a cabinet and a restructured board of directors, which he said would result in more financial accountability.

"It is a point of beginning for us," Shaw said after the vote was announced. "I would ask now that we go home and bow in prayer that God would give the direction that we ought to take from this point on."

Shaw received 3,694 votes. The Rev. W. Franklyn Richardson was a close second with 3,451 votes. The number of people who came to Tampa to vote reflects the convention's willingness and readiness to begin reforms, he said.

"We need to be clear and fully committed so my only request this night is that you go in prayer for me" and his team, Shaw said.

Shaw, 65, has been pastor of White Rock Baptist Church for 43 years.

He has said the convention's problems stem

from "a lack of accountability and a failure to center the convention around Christ."

"I believe the power of the presidency is multiplied when it is shared," he said earlier this week during a forum where he introduced the members of his cabinet.

Shaw, who placed third to Lyons in 1994, was among a group of ministers who unsuccessfully attempted to oust him in 1997 when Lyons came under federal and state investigation. Lyons, 57, resigned after he was convicted in February of swindling \$4 million from businesses and keeping nearly \$250,000 contributed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to rebuild burned black churches in the South.

Shaw and other candidates said the president's powers, including control over the group's checkbook, should be reduced. Several board members are appointed by the president.

Lyons, who was paid \$100,000 as president, is serving 5½ years in prison. The convention, which traces its roots to 1880, claims 8.5 million members, though at Lyons' trial prosecutors said the figure was inflated to attract businesses. They said membership is around 1 million.

The Rev. Angelique Walker-Smith, a New York City minister who voted for Richardson, said Shaw will help bring the convention closer together.

"Dr. Shaw is an honorable, loving, Christian gentleman and I think the convention will be blessed," she said.