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Time for Change Foundation accuses San Bernardino officials of “bad politics” during press conference



PHOTO/ANTHONY VICTORIA

Time for Change Foundation Executive Director **Kim Carter** addresses supporters during a press conference at San Bernardino City Hall on Monday October 13. Carter is accusing city officials of “backdoor politics” and is asking for “Honesty, Integrity, and Transparency”, as the signs indicate in the background.

By Anthony Victoria

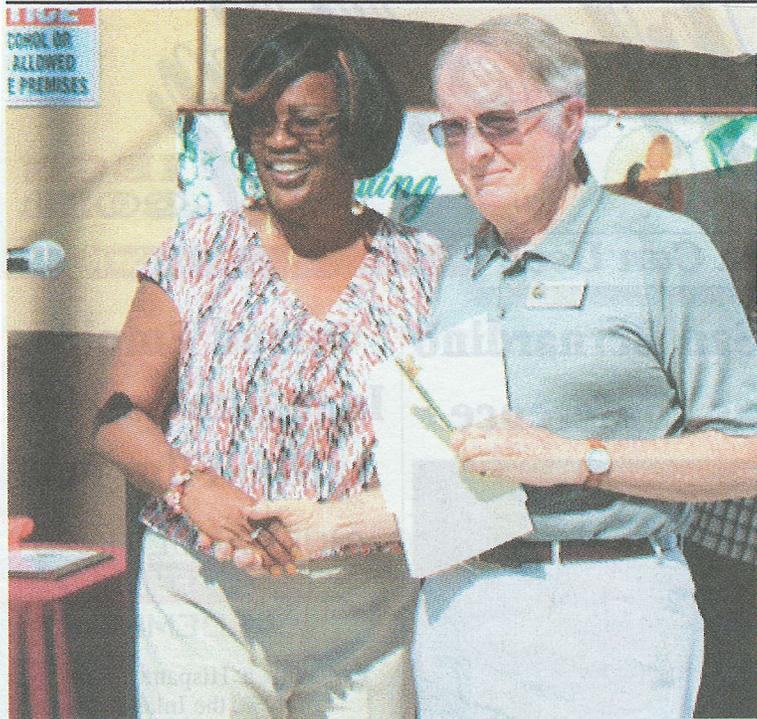
Time for Change Foundation supporters accused officials of “bad politics” by chanting, “we want

justice” and “no more dirty politics” during a press conference at San Bernardino City Hall on October 13, as a response to the city council’s recent decision to table negotiations to expand an

existing affordable housing project.

An estimated 30 supporters—comprised of young and old, impover-

TFCF cont. on next page



PHOTO/ANTHONY VICTORIA

Kim Carter presenting a gold-plated symbolic key to San Bernardino City councilmember **Jim Mulvihill** during the Phoenix Square rededication in July.

TFCF cont. from front

ished and frustrated—gathered around the steps of City Hall to make it clear to city officials that they seek to hold them accountable.

The city released a Request for Proposal (RFP) back in May to issue \$2 million of the Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Home Investment Program funds to organizations interested in creating or expanding affordable housing projects.

Time for Change—based on criteria presented by the city’s proposal review committee—received the highest average score (87 out of 100 possible points) and was only awaiting the council’s approval of a resolution that would enable them to enter negotiations with city manager Allen Parker to expand their existing housing project.

A motion set by council member Fred Shorett to table the passage of the resolution on Monday October 6 marked the second time the council failed to resolve the matter, causing for Time for Change executive director Kim Carter to express her discontent at what she perceives as “backdoor politics”.

“I’m under the impression that

the people that think they are in charge are not,” she said in a phone interview. “We’re returning to the same backdoor politics that got the city in this bankruptcy situation.”

On Monday, Carter expressed to the thirty plus supporters and protesters in the audience that the city officials are in need of, “Honesty, Integrity, and Transparency.” When asked if there was any open dialogue with city officials regarding the approval of negotiations, Carter said no type of relations have taken place.

“We have no understanding of what’s going on,” Carter said. “I can’t get no call back. It’s one of two things, they know and are not speaking up on it or they really don’t know. My question is who is really running the city?”

Mayor Carey Davis and Parker responded in a press release, which the latter took full credit for.

“It is unfortunate that the potential awardee has come forward casting unfounded (aspersions) on the City of San Bernardino concerning a process that has been transparent, met open procurement requirements and has not yet reached a conclusion,” the statement iterated.

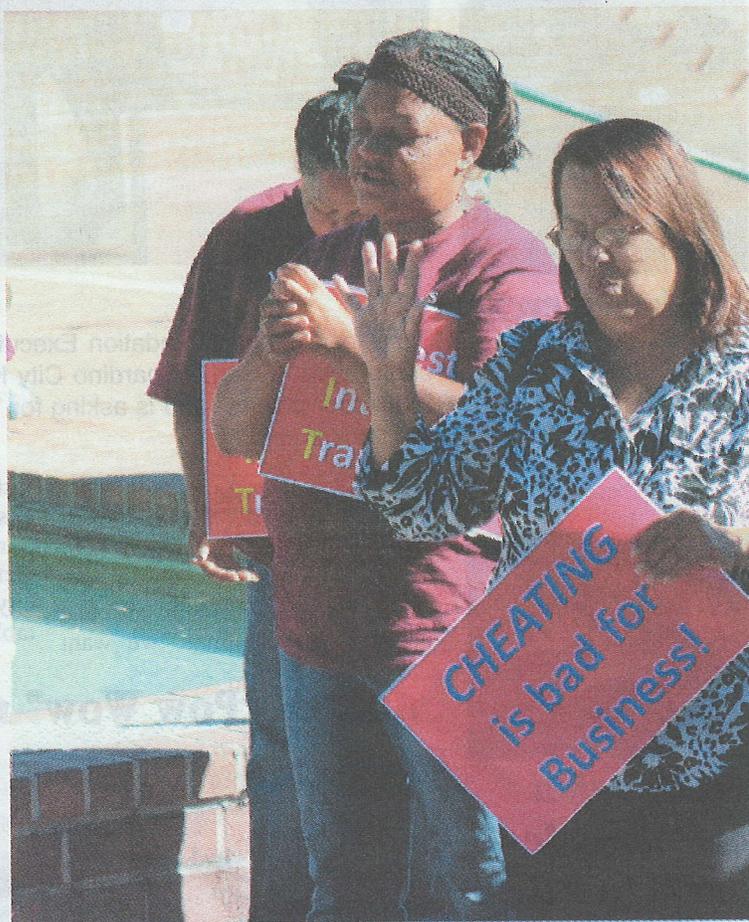
The Phoenix Square Master Plan

aims to build an additional four housing structures near to the multi housing project located on Victoria and F Streets that will comprise of seven units. In July, councilmembers Virginia Marquez, Benito Barrios, and Jim Mulvihill expressed their support for the plan during a rededication ceremony. Mulvihill and Marquez voted no in the 4-2 decision to table the city staff's recommendation to enter negotiations with Time for Change.

The majority of Time for Change's supporters, like Gladys Gomez, 43, are in need of support services and rehabilitation to help them transition back into society after serving in correctional facilities or overcoming drug and health issues.

"These people have worked hard to help us women who are in need," Gomez said to supporters and protesters. "They need to understand that this will help San Bernardino in the long run."

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PHOTO/ANTHONY VICTORIA

Time for Change Foundation supporters get together in open prayer during the press conference on October 13.