

Eyes on Tillman

Candidates line up to oust 3rd Ward alderman

by Kathy Chaney

Two Bronzeville residents officially declared to run against Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd) in the March 2007 aldermanic race.

Although Sept. 19 is the first day they can circulate their petitions for candidacy, Mell Monroe and Pat Dowell are vying to unseat the incumbent, who has held the office since 1983 at the appointment of the late Mayor Harold Washington.

Former city planner and founding executive director of the Mid-South

continued on page 2



Mell Monroe



Pat Dowell (standing) talks to 3rd Ward constituents about her run for alderman at a fund-raiser last week.

Owen M. Lawson III

Tillman

continued from page 1

Planning and Development Commission, Pat Dowell, unsuccessfully ran for the 3rd Ward seat in 2003 with 35 percent of the vote.

Dowell, an advocate for redevelopment in Bronzeville who has lived in the ward for eight years, said her vision for the 3rd Ward embraces the ward's diversity of people and interests. She pledged to work with all residents to create an open door policy that will welcome community involvement.

Redeveloping the neighborhoods within the ward with mixed income and affordable housing, commercial and retail development tops Dowell's platform. She said she's also committed to advocate employment for its residents and preserving the legacies that encompass the ward.

After being on the sidelines and seeing where he felt improvements were needed in

the ward, Monroe stressed that families are being overlooked.

Monroe, founder and past president of the Bronzeville Area Residents and Commercial Council (BARCC), is the owner of Execusearch, a career search firm for the historically underrepresented population in management and professional jobs.

"A family-friendly community is needed where quality educational resources are accessible to everyone, and where people of all ages can safely walk and shop at innovative businesses in our own neighborhoods," said Monroe who has lived in the ward for five years.

Monroe said the ward needs a visionary to plan out its business structure and he is the person that will execute that vision.

"We need viable businesses. No more chicken shacks and dollar stores," he said.

Both candidates held fund-raisers on their behalf last week.

The 3rd Ward includes the historic Bronzeville community, the South Loop, Back of the Yards, Wentworth Gardens and Fuller Park.

LAKEFRONT OUTLOOK

Volume 8

Wednesday, July 12, 2006