

**MAY 20 KCA MEETING:
DEBATE BETWEEN WARD ONE
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
CANDIDATES JIM GRAHAM,
JEFF SMITH, BRYAN WEAVER**



Jim Graham



Bryan Weaver

The KCA is pleased to announce that we will co-host, with the Reed-Cooke Neighborhood Association, the first debate of this election year between the three candidates vying to win the primary for the Ward One Council seat on the Democratic side of the ballot, incumbent Jim Graham and challengers Jeff Smith and Bryan Weaver.

The debate will be moderated by Current Newspapers publisher Davis Kennedy. Some of the questions will be supplied by each of the host organizations and audience questions will be written on cards and submitted to the candidates through the moderator.



Jim Graham was first elected to represent Ward One on the DC Council in 1998. In 2006, he was reelected to a third term with 86% in the Democratic primary and 97% in the general election. Jim is chairman of the Committee on Public Works & Transportation, including oversight of alcohol regulation. He is also a member of the Committee on Aging & Community Affairs, the Committee



Jeff Smith

on Housing & Workforce Development and the Committee on Public Services & Consumer Affairs. Graham is one of two District representatives on the Metro/Wmata board of directors.

From 1984-98, Graham was the Executive Director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Prior to Whitman-Walker, Jim's professional endeavors included a clerkship with Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, a staff attorney with the US Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and experience in private, agency and public interest law.

He has served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University, and supervising instructor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Jim is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Jeff Smith has been the Executive Director of DC VOICE since 2007. An independent education-civil rights group based in Ward 1, DC VOICE was founded in 1999 by activists, teachers, parents and education decision makers following the Federal takeover of the DC government and public school system which resulted in substantial leadership instability and spiraling academic performance.

A DC native, Jeff received a Bachelor of Arts from Howard University in 1996, followed by a Law Degree from Howard University School of Law in 2001. He is a veteran of the United States Army (1992-1996) and a former elected member of the District of Columbia Board of Education, serving Wards One and Two from 2005-2007.

Jeff believes his friends and neighbors in Ward 1 deserve safer neighborhoods, more responsible economic development, schools that play a central role in the life of the community, and an overall improved quality of life. These goals cannot be addressed adequately with ad hoc responses to problems as they present themselves but must be approached with attention to the broad social dynamics at the root of the challenges the community faces.

Jeff lives in Ward 1 with his wife Nyasha, and 4 year-old daughter Andaiye.



Bryan Weaver is a community activist, an Adams Morgan ANC commissioner in his fourth term,

including 3 years as Chair, and a communications professional with 15 years experience in progressive causes. A believer in the economic and cultural diversity of Ward One and DC, he uses his elected office to give voice to those forgotten by city government.

A consensus-builder as Chair of ANC1C, his years of leadership experience dealt with complex issues like public safety; liquor licensing; strengthening neighborhoods; and encouraging business development.

Bryan founded non-profit Hoops Sagrado, in 1996, taking at-risk youth to Guatemala each summer for a program of basketball, cultural exchange, leadership development, mentoring, Spanish immersion, English tutoring and community-building. Hoops Sagrado also provides scholarships to Mayan teens to finish high school and go to college. He has also tutored and coached locally.

Professional experience: Field Representative/Organizer for the Service Employees International Union, Local 500; Press Secretary, The Body Shop USA; Assistant Press Secretary, Democratic National Committee; consultant, Education Trust; Stand Up for Steel Campaign, and the 2004 Athens Olympic Committee Bid. He was an aide for Jesse Jackson and the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

Bryan received a BA in Political Science with an emphasis on race and public policy from Howard. A 19-year resident of Ward One, he lives in Adams Morgan with his wife Maria Cardona and their children, Sebastian and MayaLuna.



The debate will run from 7:30 to approximately 9:00 pm at Good Will Baptist Church. From 7:00 to 7:30 KCA will have a short agenda including annual elections of officers.

-Denis James

MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2010 KCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Denis James, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were approved.

Community Announcements

Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the AMPBID, announced a new arrangement with Colonial Parking for weekdays before 5 pm, up to four hours of parking will be \$6.00, with validation from merchant. Kristin also announced for **Lisa Duperier**, A-M Main Street, that the Bow-Wow Pow-Wow, will take place Sunday, April 25 from 11-5 at Marie Reed, with vendors, contests, and dog dancing.

Wilson Reynolds, Chair, ANC 1C, announced an ANC-sponsored recycling day Saturday, April 24, 11-2 at H.D. Cooke Elementary School parking lot, 2500 Mozart Place.

Wilson also announced that the independent study of the proposed Mt. Pleasant Library plans, commissioned by ANC 1C and focusing on accessibility issues and fire safety, will be up on the ANC website April 19:

http://www.anc1c.org/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=14:mt.-pleasant-library&Itemid=76

Denis announced he has arranged to hold the annual June KCA Summer Party at Perrys, 1811 Columbia Road, Thursday, June 17, at 6:30. Three course tapas and sushi menu, \$25.00; not including tax and tip. Cash bar.

Denis announced that the ABC Board and agency, ABRA, had formed a Noise Panel, at the urging of CM Graham to improve the ability of the agency to respond to noise complaints with regard to ABC establishments. The panel will gather information and examine possible solutions, including amending DC Noise laws and regs.

ABC Matter: Request of Muzette for Entertainment Endorsement, 2305A 18th Street

Muzette, a new restaurant operator, has bought the old Kokopooli's license and are applying for an Entertainment Endorsement for karaoke in 9 rooms. Denis offered a resolution to protest the license on the grounds of effect on: peace, order and quiet; and effect on residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety. After discussion, the resolution was approved.

Brief Comments By Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham

Jim discussed the latest info the Council had heard on school finance, concerning whether or not there is money in the DC budget for the increased salaries in the teacher's union contract. Jim said the average DC teacher salary is \$81,000, which is surprisingly high.

Presentation by Vincent Gray, Chairman, City Council & Democratic Candidate for Mayor

Chairman Gray began his presentation by mentioning his work with Councilmember Graham, Denis and other advocates that led to the City purchase of 3 Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington facilities: Jelleff, Clubhouse #10 and the Eastern Branch.

He said he spends a lot of time on education, and thinks the new teachers' contract has issues. He noted that the recently announced changes in the funding available in the education budget, the swings from deficit to surplus, and back, were a shock. He said that many of the 266 teachers who had been rified in October, 2009 were still unemployed. With regard to the education budget, if the money is actually there, why were all those teachers rified, and if the money is not there, how will the teachers' contract be funded?

On the pre-K eligibility enhancement act, he is committed to creating a seat in an education program for every 3 and 4 year-old in the District whose parents want it. The program is very popular, and Chairman Gray believes it can be fully implemented by 2014. DC is the only jurisdiction in the US to have this universal access. The program allows government agencies to work with young parents at an early stage, and it aids the professional development of the parents. He also wants to create universal services for infants and toddlers, before pre-K. He believes that we can and should intervene earlier than we have been doing, since so much brain development takes place before age five.

He noted that DC has just established its first community college, at UDC, which already has 2,300 students. DC is vying to win students back from MD and VA junior colleges. We have increased the number of graduate programs at UDC, and the law school there is a highly regarded clinical law school. In DC, education is related to the economy, i.e., he considers all education to be "vocational" education.

We must ask what our economy will look like in the future. Gray deplored the fact that DC has no viable job training programs. With unemployment in Wards 7 and 8 very high, how can we not train our citizens for jobs? He noted that insurance companies pay lots of people to work for them off-shore, and suggested that DC should become a financial services center and create green jobs.

Chairman Gray noted that with the Council working on the budget, there are lots of challenges and hearings, and he invited people to testify on issues that interest them.

He is a DC native, went to GWU, and has lived here his whole life. Before becoming City Council Chairman, he worked in the nonprofit sector,

and was then elected Councilmember for Ward 7. He would bring maturity, integrity, and experience to the office of mayor.

He said that with DC Emancipation Day the next day, April 16, DC residents are still not free. We need statehood to have equal freedoms as other US citizens.

In response to a question about proposed service cuts vs. increased fees on the Metro system, Gray noted that Councilmember Graham has been a leader in Metro operations and has long been on the Metro Board. He said DC has a record of supporting Metro. With regard to capital improvements, DC has been the first to make our contribution, because Metro is vital to us. We must get commuters out of cars. We need transit-oriented development at Metro stops. He said he would be working with CM Graham on how best to proceed in this area. If Metro gets additional funding, other programs will have to be cut to provide those funds. He said much money has been wasted on special education which could have gone to funding Metro.

In response to a question about why he got into the race for Mayor, Gray said he can provide better leadership, citing the poor relationship between the Mayor and Council, the contracts for cronies issue, and the teachers' budget issue. These problems harm DC. Gray wants to offer voters a choice and is willing to give up his seat to do so.

In response to a question about whether he would keep Michele Rhee as School's Chancellor, Gray said he is often asked this, but hasn't decided yet. He has been both pleased and displeased with various aspects of her work. People may not realize that he often speaks to Rhee. However, change should be institutionalized, not based on personalities. He supports not having a board of education. Education reform is now focused on K-12, and that is a mistake. There is new activity at UDC, and on the early side, we should work on getting universal pre-kindergarten education.

With regard to whether the fired teachers should be reinstated, Gray said there is agreement that they should be, if they are good performers. Since DC hires a lot of teachers, including 900 recently, it is crazy not to hire the laid off teachers first.

To a question on the environment, he said the creation of the Department of the Environment was a good idea, and he will work to implement green building standards. Related to this, he suggested that people should get out of their cars and use transit instead, and bring back streetcars. Also, there should be an environmental curriculum in the schools.

With regard to campaign contributions from developers, Gray said that none were contributing to his campaign. He is beholden only to the people of DC. For example, he has supported smoke-free DC, despite the opposition of some business groups.

Bryan Weaver, ANC 1C-03 commissioner, asked about transparency, earmarks, and campaign finance. He noted that corporations can make huge campaign contributions by using various methods, while a citizen can only give one check. Gray said that earmarks would be eliminated by 2011, and the amount of grants received by organizations would be capped. He thinks that if there is a compelling need for an organization, the City should support it in the budget. He noted also that the candidates with the most money don't necessarily win the election, that voters are more intelligent than that. Bryan said that many Councilmembers get donations from developers, who benefit from the current system. Gray said while he did not disagree, DC's system is more stringent than others. He said the Council spent time on election and campaign finance reform this year, and that legislative changes are to be expected.

In response to a question about CFO Natwar Ghandi and the budget, Gray responded that we need institutional change. DC has demonstrated that it can manage itself. He questioned why Congress must make decisions about DC finances when we are well-governed, compared to other cities. The basic question is not Ghandi, but the ability to control our own financial management. He will be focusing on a bill in Congress giving budget autonomy to DC.

In response to a question about how much his campaign has raised, Gray said he was not sure of the amount so far, but he has put some of his own money in. His staff has had to re-order yard signs, has lots of volunteers, and is running an energetic campaign.

With regard to seniors, Gray said that was one reason we have a junior college, for seniors and other adults to improve their skills, for example, in computer technology. He opposes institutionalizing the elderly and supports the aging-in-place movement. Supplying needed services to residents in their homes saves money. He noted there are local neighborhood groups nearby, such as Dupont Circle Village, formed for this purpose. He suggested the DC Office on Aging could look to work in this area.

With regard to summer employment for youth, Gray said that a 6-week program has been approved for this year. This program has been poorly operated the last couple of years, it has exceeded its budget. While the concept is good, it has largely been a babysitting service. Jobs have not been defined. He suggested that too many kids feel that they are owed a

summer job, that they make no effort to show up on time, do a real job, or get along with people, which is the purpose of the program.

Gray stressed the importance of filling out census forms, as so much of the funding DC receives is census-based and the form is very easy.

There was a brief discussion of the voting rights bill in Congress that would have required DC to give up authority over its gun control law. Gray noted Councilmember Phil Mendelson's arrival earlier and remarked on the excellent work he had done on gun control legislation in the Council, making it comply with the Heller decision.

Gray had no position on the changes proposed for the Mt. Pleasant Library, but noted it was important to know where the community stands on this issue. The new Benning and Anacostia libraries are very good and reflect community discussion.

Brief Remarks by At-Large Councilmember Phil Mendelson

CM Mendelson briefly mentioned a few bills before the Council, including human trafficking. He supported Gray's candidacy, noting that Gray is able to "herd the cats", and supports openness and transparency. The monthly Council-Mayor breakfasts are now open to the press; more Council materials are available on-line; and earmarks will be eliminated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

-Linda Ingram, Secretary

KCA SUMMER DINNER PARTY AT PERRYS THURSDAY JUNE 17, 6:30

Below is the great menu Perrys has arranged for the KCA's annual summer gathering. There's no need to do anything now, except make your reservation. Do that by e-mailing:

president@kaloramacitizens.org or call me at: 202 232-8829. You can make your menu selections at the restaurant the night of the dinner. Tax and tip are not included in the special price. Cash bar.

Perrys is located at 1811 Columbia Road, NW, at the corner of Columbia Road and Biltmore Street.

- A classic gazpacho**
jumbo lump crab meat
path valley mixed baby romaine salad
cabrales cheese | walnuts | piquillo pepper
spanish chicken croquetas
chicken | béchamel

- B brava potatoes**
spicy tomato | aioli
bunuelos de bacalao
codfish fritters | honey aioli
mini grilled chorizo
mashed potatoes | garlic sauce

- C potage**
garbonzo & spinach stew | sofrito | paprika
8 pc roll combination
chef's choice
chicken chillindron
serrano ham | piquillo pepper
grilled angus flat iron steak
serrano ham | piquillo pepper

- D key lime tartelette**
guava nectar

Please select one item from category A, B, and C for \$25 per person, the night of the event.

extra basket of bread 1.95 extra basket of bread |
home cured olives | virgin olive oil 2.95

Special thanks to owner and neighbor Saied Azali for arranging a special menu for us. I hope to see you there!

- Denis James

The KCA newsletter is published in print and electronically 10 times a year.

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CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES PAYMENTS

Annual dues are now due. Contributions can be made by credit card or Paypal at: <http://www.kaloramacitizens.org/join>
Or use this convenient form and send your check to KCA, PO Box 21311, Washington DC 20009. KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law

- Here's my \$_____ contribution for plants and supplies for the Biltmore Triangle Garden.
 - I support the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project. Enclosed is my \$_____ contribution to help pay project costs.
 - For a minimum \$25.00 contribution to the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project, get an Adams Morgan T-shirt.
 - Here's my \$25 dues for 2010.
 - I've corrected the mailing label below. Here's my e-mail address for new updates:_____
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Washington DC 20009

Return Service Requested

**NEXT KCA MEETING:
THURSDAY MAY 20, 7:00
KCA ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**WARD ONE DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY CANDIDATES DEBATE,
WITH JIM GRAHAM, JEFF SMITH,
BRYAN WEAVER**

**GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1862 KALORAMA ROAD, NW**