## A VISIT THROUGH HISTORY: HISTORICAL COUNCIL PHOTOGRAGHS

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# THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING: A CENTENNIAL OVERVIEW

## Some Important Facts, Dates and Events Associated with the Seat of Government of the District of Columbia

- 1902 Congress enacts legislation acquiring Square 255 and authorizing construction of a permanent seat of government for the District of Columbia (June 6).
- 1908 District (Wilson) Building is dedicated. Speakers and guests include Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Mayors of Baltimore and Richmond. Declaration of Independence is read by a member of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia. Thousands attend the ceremony and tour the building (July 4).
- 1909 Bust of Crosby Stuart Noyes is unveiled in District (Wilson) Building. Funds are privately raised to commission the bust. Noyes (1825-1908) had been the editor of The Washington Evening Star. In 1888, Noyes persuaded the U.S. Senate for the first time ever to draft and consider a proposal to give D.C. voting representation in both the U.S. House and Senate. Throughout his life, Noyes advocated voting rights for residents of the District of Columbia (February 25).
- 1909 The Statue of Governor Alexander Robey Shepherd (1835-1902), a D.C. native, is unveiled in front of the District (Wilson) Building (May 3). Until 2005, when a statue of D.C. native, John Phillip Sousa, was unveiled near the Marine Barracks on Capitol Hill, Shepherd's statue was the only one of a D.C. native anywhere in the Nation's Capital.
- 1920 Memorial sculpture honoring D.C. government employees who died in World War I is unveiled in memorial ceremony by Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Woodrow Wilson. The marble memorial is the work of Jerome Conner and depicts a dying soldier (April 6).
- 1921 Oil portrait of District of Columbia Governor Alexander Robey Shepherd is hung in the Boardroom (Council Chamber) of the District (Wilson)
  Building. Shepherd's widow, Mary Young Shepherd, officially presents the portrait to be displayed in the seat of government during a ceremony (April 21). The portrait remained in the Chamber until about 1970.

- 1928 The Federal Triangle Act mandated a major federal building program of imposing design. The demolition of the District (Wilson) Building in order to provide another site for a new Federal building or a park was anticipated under provisions of this Act.
- 1931 U.S. Senator Hiram Bingham (R-CT), chair of the Senate D.C.Appropriations Subcommittee, acts to avert demolition of the District (Wilson) Building. The Senator says he is moved to act by letters from students and the public.
- 1938 President of the Board of Commissioners, Melvin C. Hazen, announces selection of D.C. flag design and orders flag to be flown daily (except Sundays) at District (Wilson) Building (October 15).
- 1941 Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen dies suddenly at his desk (July 15). Hazen led the effort to give D. C. a flag.
- 1942 U.S. Army soldiers are quartered on ground floor of District (Wilson) Building. Troops are on duty to guard bridges and federal buildings.
- 1950 A replica of Liberty Bell cast in France is placed at main entrance of District (Wilson) Building. The bell was a duplicate of the original without the crack. All 48 States and the District of Columbia received a bell. The bells were to be prominently displayed to inspire patriotism and promote sale of U.S. Savings Bonds. By 1960, the bell was sited in a small street island in front of the District Building. It disappeared in 1979 during construction of Western (Freedom) Plaza.
- 1953 President Eisenhower appoints Samuel Spencer, a D.C. native, to the Board of Commissioners. As Board President, Spencer initiates an order directing all hiring and promotions in the D.C. government to be based solely on qualifications and merit without regard to "race, creed, or color."
- 1959 A portrait by Margaret Elliot of former Commissioner Louis Brownlow is presented to the D.C. Government and hung in Room 500 of the District (Wilson) Building (January 26). Brownlow, a pioneer of the public administration training movement, served as Commissioner from 1915 to 1921. He was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson.

- 1961 John B. Duncan becomes the first African-American appointed a Commissioner. He was nominated by President John F. Kennedy and served until 1967, when the D.C. government was reorganized.
- 1964 A ceremony accepting a memorial tablet honoring D.C. native Stewart Holland to be placed in the vestibule of the District (Wilson) Building is held (May 22). On September 22, 1854, Holland fired a ship's cannon for four hours, trying to attract rescuers to the steamship Arctic, which was sinking off the Grand Banks. He went down with the ship.
- The nine-member appointed Council under the D.C. Government Reorganization Act meets for the first time in the District (Wilson)
   Building (November 7). John Hechinger is designated Chair, Walter E.
   Fauntroy, Vice-Chair. Three Republicans serve on this first appointed Council.
- 1970 A bronze bust of former Commissioner John B. Duncan is unveiled in a ceremony and placed on public display outside the Council Chamber. The sculpture is the work of Nathaniel P. Gillian. Duncan preferred a bust over customary oil portraits of Commissioners.
- 1970 Citizen meetings in District (Wilson) Building lead to organization of D.C. Statehood Party.
- 1975 Mayor Walter E. Washington is administered the oath of office in front of the District (Wilson) Building by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (January 2). Washington is the first elected Mayor of the District of Columbia and assumes office with the first elected Council chaired by Sterling Tucker.
- 1976 John A. Nevius, Chair (1972-1975) of the Appointed Council, writes editor of the Washington Post, noting that the District (Wilson) Building is an outstanding example of a Palladian revival architecture design (May 29, 1976). Nevius further illustrates that our Seat of Government is, in fact, practically a replica of Palazzo da Porto Festa by Italian architect Andrea Palladio (1508-1580).
- 1977 Armed Hanafi Muslims take over District (Wilson) Building. Maurice Williams, a reporter for WHUR-FM, is fatally shot. Special police officer Mark Cantrell dies two days later from gunshot wounds. Councilmember Marion S. Barry recovers from a gunshot wound near his heart. The 40-hour siege ends after ambassadors from three Islamic nations negotiate a surrender to authorities (March 9).

- 1979 Mayor Marion S. Barry is administered oath of office in front of District (Wilson Building) by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall II (January 2).
- 1979 The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) removes statue of Governor Shepherd from the park in front of the District (Wilson) Building. The Park is incorporated into Western (Freedom) Plaza. PADC officials never carry out a pledge to relocate statue on Pennsylvania Avenue. Shepherd goes into a 25-year exile near Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant.
- 1993 The Council of the District of Columbia enacts legislation designating the seat of government the "John A. Wilson Building" (October 6).
- 1997 Council Chair, David A. Clarke, becomes the first elected official of the District of Columbia to lie in state in the Wilson Building (April 3).
- 2002 Official re-opening of the John A. Wilson Building following renovation. Public is invited for a ceremony and tours of the renovated seat of government (June 29).
- 2003 Former Mayor Walter E. Washington lies in state in Wilson Building (October 31).
- 2005 Governor Shepherd's statue is returned to Wilson Building. Council Chair Linda Cropp, Council members Jim Graham and Jack Evans, Mayor Anthony Williams, and DDOT Director Dan Tangherlini respond to campaign of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia to bring Shepherd home to our seat of government (January 29).
- 2007 A plaque honoring the life of Maurice Williams is placed outside the Press Room. A plaque placed earlier was lost during Wilson Building renovation (March 12).

Research by Nelson Rimensnyder July 24, 2008



Carriage and Wagon Building on future site of the District (Wilson) Building



District (Wilson) Building



District (Wilson) Building



District (Wilson) Building



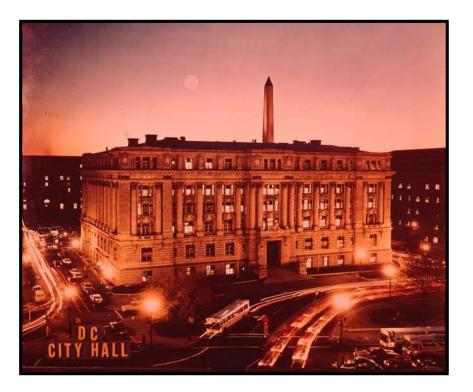
Bell at entrance to District (Wilson) Building



District (Wilson) Building



District (Wilson) Building inaugural viewing stand



District (Wilson) Building 1974



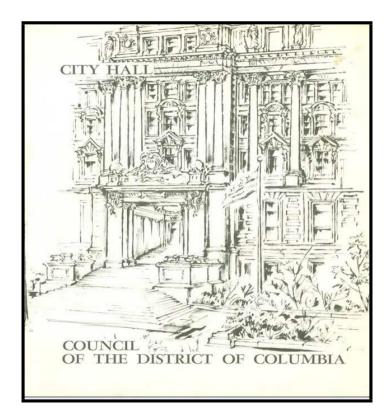
John A. Wilson Building



John A. Wilson Building



John A. Wilson Building





Mayor Walter E. Washington



Mayor Walter E. Washington



Mayor Walter E. Washington and Benetta Washington in front of home in LeDroit Park



Mayor Walter E. Washington Swearing- in Ceremony



Mayor Walter E. Washington being sworn-in by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall



Mayor Walter E. Washington



Sammy Davis, Jr. and Mayor Walter E. Washington



Mayor Walter E. Washington, Jesse Jackson and Mary Burke Washington



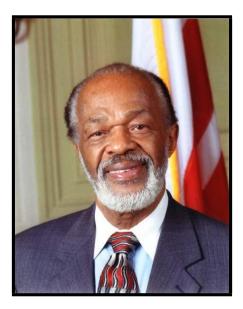
Mayor Walter E. Washington



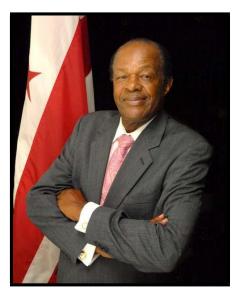
Mayor Walter E. Washington and Walter Fauntroy



Mayor Walter E. Washington and Councilmember Willie J. Hardy



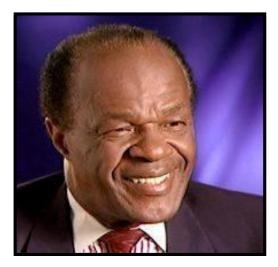
Marion S. Barry



Marion S. Barry



Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly and James Nathanson



Marion S. Barry



Mayor Anthony A. Williams



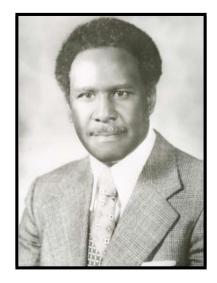
Mayor Adrian M. Fenty



Phillip Daugherty



Joseph P. Yeldell



Joseph P. Yeldell



Judge Margaret Haywood



Judge Margaret Haywood with colleagues



John W. Hechinger



Walter E. Fauntroy



Walter E. Fauntroy



John Ray



Stanley Anderson



Sterling Tucker



Sterling Tucker, Aloyce Tucker, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Lauren Tucker, Shelly Tucker, Mayor Walter E. Washington



Sterling Tucker being sworn-in by Justice Thurgood Marshall



Sterling Tucker



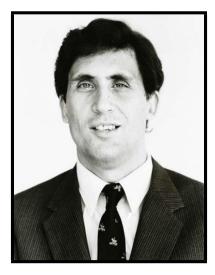
Sterling Tucker



Arrington L. Dixon



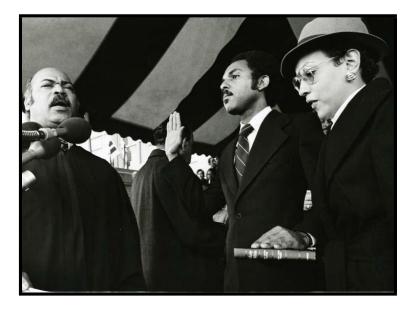
Arrington L. Dixon and Charlene Drew Jarvis



David A. Clarke



David A. Clarke



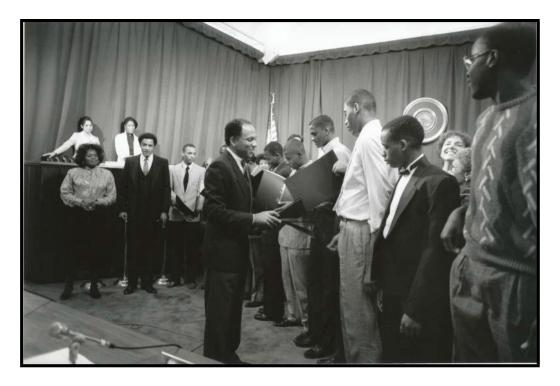
Judge Harry Alexander swearing- in John A. Wilson



John A. Wilson meeting constituent



John A. Wilson listening to a senior



John A. Wilson congratulating students



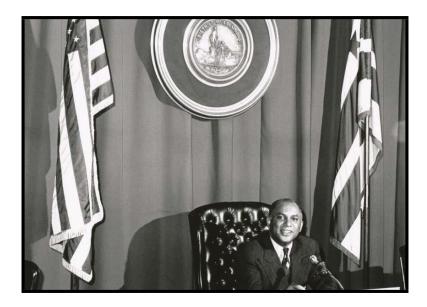
John A. Wilson and Marion S. Barry having a chat



John A. Wilson



John A. Wilson and wife, Bonnie



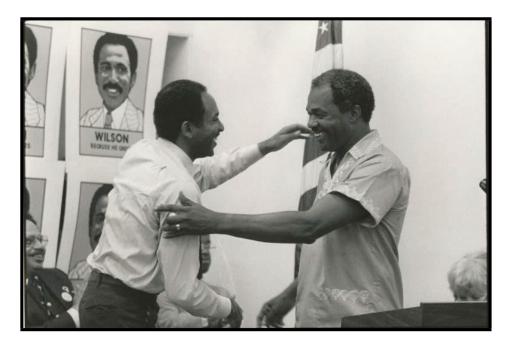
John A. Wilson



John A. Wilson meeting with businessmen



John A. Wilson and Marion S. Barry



John A. Wilson and Marion S. Barry



Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA), Warren Graves and John A. Wilson



John A. Wilson receiving honorary doctorate



John A. Wilson



John A. Wilson being sworn-in by Judge Judith W. Rogers



William P. Spaulding, John A. Wilson, Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Polly Shackleton, Willie J. Hardy, Sterling Tucker



John A. Wilson



Linda W. Cropp



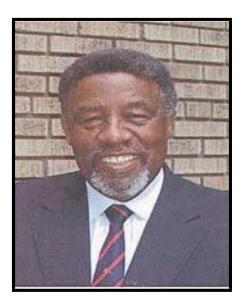
Douglas Moore



Linda W. Cropp



Vincent C. Gray



Douglas Moore



Julius Hobson



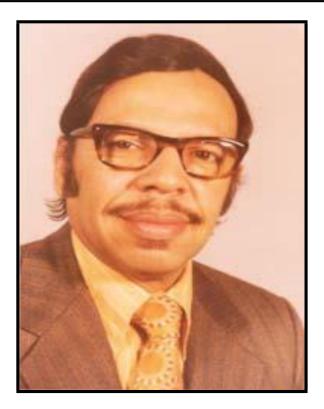
Judge Luke Moore swearing- in Julius Hobson



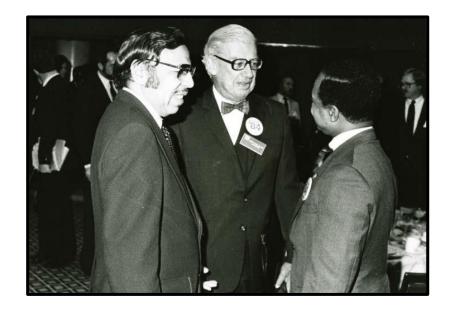
Julius Hobson



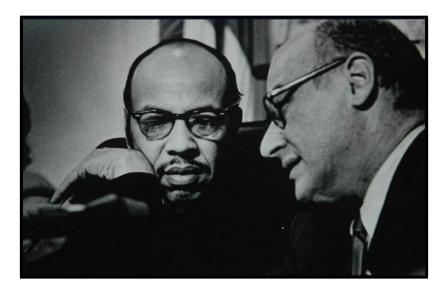
The appointed Council at work



Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr.



Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Joe Rauh and Walter Fauntroy



Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr.



John Ray, Betty Anne Kane and Nadine P. Winter



John Ray



John Ray



Betty Anne Kane with students



Betty Anne Kane



Hilda H.M. Mason



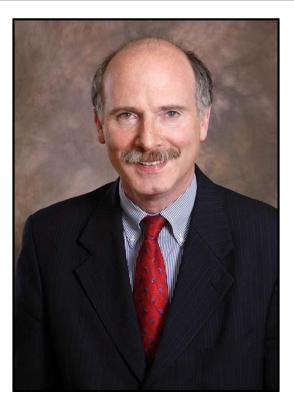
Carol Schwartz



Harold Brazil



David A. Catania



Phil Mendelson



Kwame R. Brown



David A. Clarke, Arrington L. Dixon, Lawrence H. Mirel



John A. Wilson, Bruce French, Arrington L. Dixon, Vivian Cunningham and Lawrence Mirel



Chairman Dixon's Office



Marion S. Barry and girl scouts



Councilmembers with students in chamber



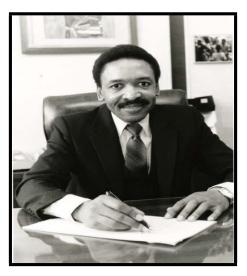
Polly Shackleton, Nadine P. Winter, Arrington L. Dixon, Hilda H.M. Mason, John Ray, David A. Clarke, William R. Spaulding and Betty Anne Kane



Wilhelmina J. Rolark, Nadine P. Winter, Arrington L. Dixon, Hilda H.M. Mason, Polly Shackleton, Marion Wright Eldeman – Children Defense Fund



Council in action



Frank Smith, Jr.



Jim Graham



Hilda H.M. Mason presenting a ceremonial resolution



Betty Anne Kane, John Ray, Hilda H.M. Mason



John Ray, Arrington L. Dixon, David A. Clarke, Hilda H.M. Mason, William R. Spaulding, H.R. Crawford, Betty Ann Kane



Jack Evans



Polly Shackleton in action



Polly Shackleton with Marion S. Barry signing legislation benefitting seniors and persons with disabilities



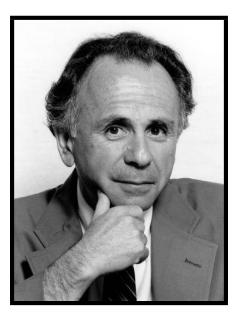
Polly Shackelton and Marion S. Barry



H.R. Crawford, Polly Shackelton, and Marion S. Barry



Polly Shackleton campaigning



James Nathanson



Kathleen Patterson



Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., H.R. Crawford, Charlene Drew Jarvis, Polly Shackleton, John A. Wilson



Muriel Bowser



John Hechinger



Jack Nevius



Council in action



Phillip J. Daugherty



Phillip J. Daugherty



Cherry Blossom Girls



Council in session



Council Swearing-in at the White House



Swearing- in Ceremony with Mayor Walter E. Washington



Council swearing- in at the White House



School Group in the Chambers



New Council meeting with Mayor Walter E. Washington



Welcoming Delegation from Mainz, Germany



Councilmember Joseph Yeldell meeting with visiting dignitaries



Welcoming Delegation from Mainz, Germany



Chairman John Hechinger meeting with constituents



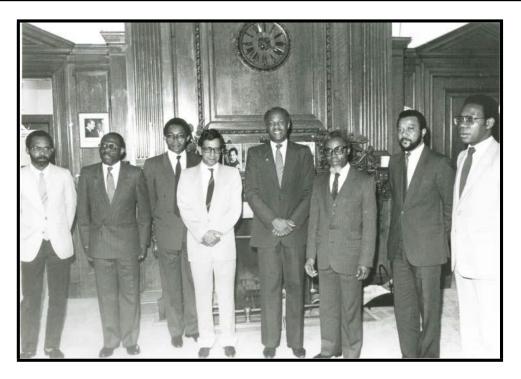
New Council with Mayor Walter E. Washington



New Council with Mayor Walter E. Washington



Marion S. Barry with students and families



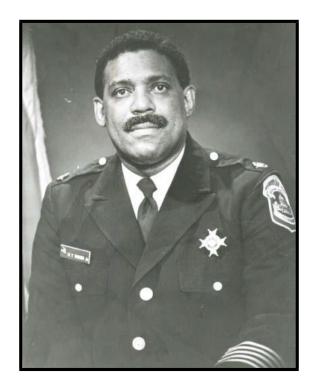
Marion S. Barry with visiting dignitaries



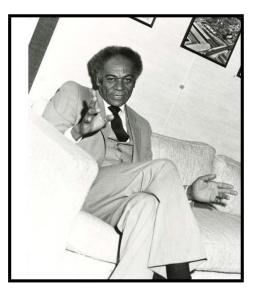
Marion S. Barry with girl scouts



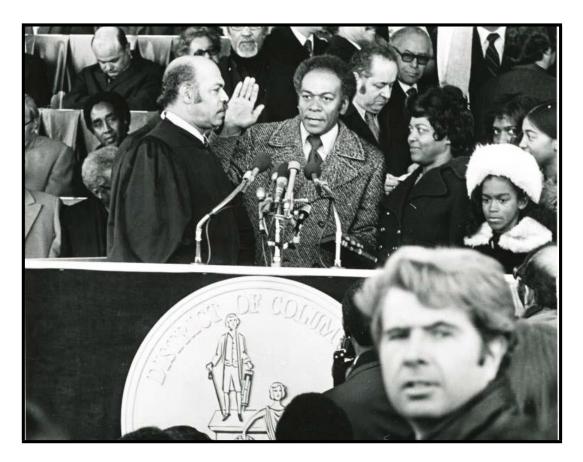
H.R. Crawford, Charlene Drew Jarvis and Betty Ann Kane



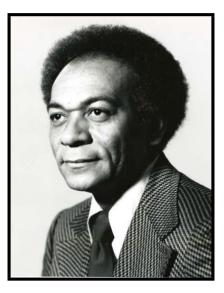
Police Chief Maurice Turner



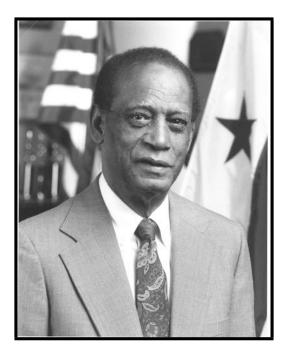
William R. Spaulding



Judge Harry T. Alexander and William R. Spaulding



William R. Spaulding



Harry Thomas, Sr.



Vincent B. Orange, Sr.



Harry Thomas, Jr.



Nadine P. Winter



Antoinette Ford



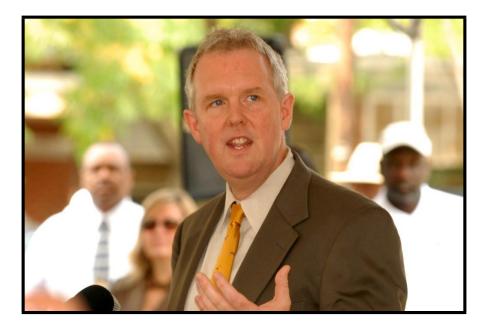
Nadine P. Winter



Nadine P. Winter with former Police Chief Ike Fullwood



Sharon Ambrose



Tommy Wells



Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Sterling Tucker, Willie J. Hardy, Douglas Moore, Hilda H.M. Mason and Nadine P. Winter



Willie J. Hardy



Julius Hobson, Willie J. Hardy, Douglas Moore and Arrington L. Dixon presenting a ceremonial resolution



Willie J. Hardy at street renaming in Ward 7



Willie J. Hardy and William R. Spaulding



Willie J. Hardy with young constituent



H. R. Crawford



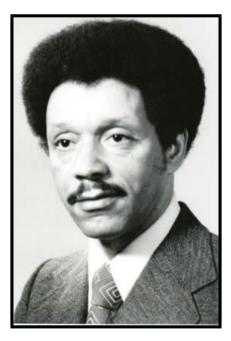
Kevin P. Chavous



Vincent C. Gray



Yvette M. Alexander



**Reverend James Coates** 



Wilhelmina J. Rolark



Eydie D. Whittington



Sandy (Sandra) Allen



Marion S. Barry and Flaxie Pinkett



Councilmembers with former First Lady Rosslyn Carter



Wilhelmina J. Rolark and William P. Lightfoot



Betty Anne Kane, Arrington L. Dixon, David A. Clarke, Wilhelmina J. Rolark and John Ray



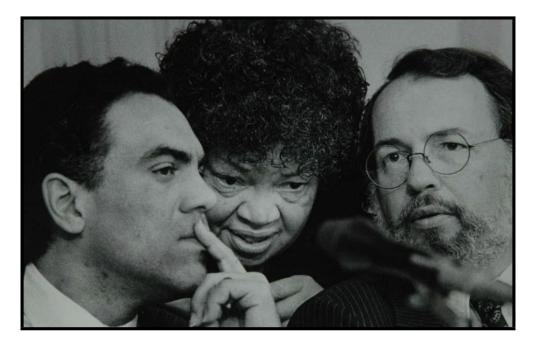
Appointed Council in action



Audience during Council meeting



Chairman Dixon and Council in session



Arrington L. Dixon, Wilhelmina J. Rolark and the General Counsel, Larry Mirel



Appointed Council testifying before U.S. Congress



Helping a constituent



A Council hearing



New Washington City Government



Polly Shackleton and Stanley Anderson



Marion S. Barry and Polly Shackleton



A hearing in the Council Chamber



Visiting the White House



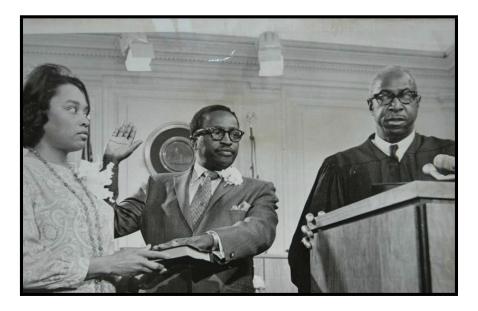
Judge Theodore Newman swearing-in Hilda H.M. Mason



Marion S. Barry, Willie J. Hardy, Nadine P. Winter, unidentified man, John A. Wilson, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr.



Walter Fauntroy and his wife and son at a press conference



Stanley Anderson being sworn in for a 2nd term



Celebrating Home Rule



#### **Council Period One**

Standing (l to r) William R. Spaulding Arrington L. Dixon, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Marion S. Barry, Rev. James Coates, John A. Wilson, Douglas Moore. Sitting (l to r) Nadine P. Winter, Polly Shackleton, Mayor Walter E. Washington, Sterling Tucker, Willie J. Hardy. (Julius Hobson not shown)



### **Council Period Two**

Standing (I to r) Nadine P. Winter, Arrington L. Dixon, Marion S. Barry, Jr. David A. Clarke, William R. Spaulding, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., John A. Wilson, Wilhelmina J. Rolark. Sitting (I to r) Polly Shackleton, Willie J. Hardy, Sterling Tucker, Douglas Moore, Julius Hobson



# **Council Period Three**

Standing (l to r) William R. Spaulding, Wilhelmina J. Rolark, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr. Betty Ann Kane, David A. Clarke, Charlene Drew Jarvis, John Ray, John A. Wilson. Sitting (l to r) Hilda H.M. Mason, Nadine P. Winter, Arrington L. Dixon, Willie J. Hardy, Polly Shackleton



#### **Council Period Four**

Standing (l to r) Wilhelmina J. Rolark, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr. John Ray, Charlene Drew Jarvis, David A. Clarke, Betty Ann Kane, William R. Spaulding, H.R. Crawford. Sitting (l to r) Hilda H.M. Mason, Nadine P. Winter, Arrington L. Dixon, John A. Wilson, Polly Shackleton



#### **Council Period Five**

Standing (l to r) John A. Wilson, H.R. Crawford, William R. Spaulding, Charlene Drew Jarvis, Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Betty Ann Kane, Frank Smith, Jr., John Ray. Sitting (l to r) Hilda H.M. Mason, Wilhelmina J. Rolark, David A. Clarke, Nadine P. Winter, Polly Shackleton



#### **Council Period Six**

Standing (l to r) Carol Schwartz, John A. Wilson, H.R. Crawford, Charlene Drew Jarvis, John Ray, Betty Anne Kane, William R. Spaulding, Hilda H.M. Mason. Sitting (l to r) Wilhelmina J. Rolark, Frank Smith, Jr., David A. Clarke. Nadine P. Winter, Polly Shackleton



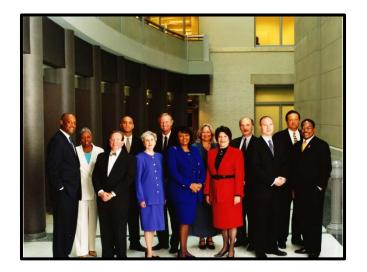
#### **Council Period Eight**

Standing (l to r) William P. Lightfoot, Harry Thomas, Sr., John Ray, Charlene Drew Jarvis, Betty Ann Kane, H.R. Crawford, John A. Wilson. Sitting (l to r) Frank Smith, Jr., Wilhelmina Rolark, David A. Clarke, Nadine P. Winter, Hilda H.M. Mason (James E. Nathanson, Not Shown)



# **Council Period Nine**

Standing (l to r) Harry Thomas, Sr., John Ray, H.R. Crawford, Charlene Drew Jarvis, Jack Evans, Linda W. Cropp, Harold Brazil, Frank Smith, Jr. Sitting (l to r) James E. Nathanson, Wilhelmina J. Rolark, John A. Wilson, Hilda H.M. Mason, William P. Lightfoot



# **Council Period Thirteen**

Kevin P. Chavous, Sandy (Sandra) Allen, Adrian M. Fenty, Kathleen Patterson, Phil Mendelson, Harold Brazil, Jim Graham, Sharon Ambrose, Linda W. Cropp, Carol Schwartz, David A. Catania, Vincent B. Orange, Sr.



### **Council Period Fourteen**

Standing (l to r) Adrian M. Fenty, Phil Mendelson, Jim Graham, Harold Brazil, Carol Schwartz, Vincent B. Orange, Sr., Sharon Ambrose, Kathleen Patterson. Sitting (l to r) Kevin P. Chavous, Jack Evans, Linda W. Cropp, Sandra (Sandy) Allen, David A. Catania



# **Council Period Sixteen**

Standing (l to r) Adrian M. Fenty, Kathleen Patterson, Marion S. Barry, Jim Graham, Carol Schwartz, Phil Mendelson, Vincent C. Gray, David A. Catania. Sitting (l to r) Kwame R. Brown, Jack Evans, Linda W. Cropp, Sharon Ambrose, Vincent B. Orange, Sr.



#### **Council Period Seventeen**

Standing (l to r) Jim Graham, Muriel Bowser, Harry Thomas, Jr., Yvette Alexander, Marion S. Barry, Phil Mendelson, Mary Cheh. Sitting (l to r) David A. Catania, Carol Schwartz, Vincent C. Gray, Jack Evans, Kwame R. Brown



President Lyndon B. Johnson



D.C. Native Duke Ellington



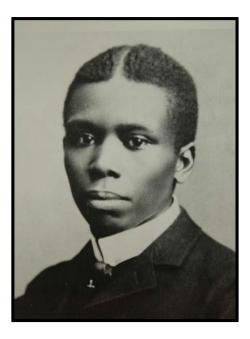
A young Pearl Bailey and her husband Louie Belson a famous Jazz singer



Nannie H. Burroughs



D.C. Native Senator Ed Brooke (R-MA)



Paul Lawrence Dunbar



Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois Educator, Writer



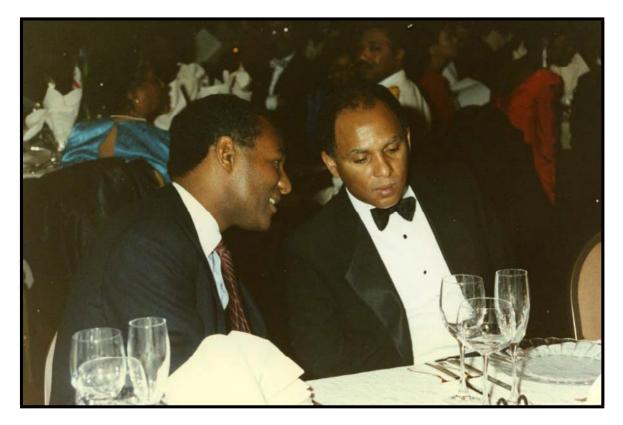
Patricia Roberts Harris (Ran for Mayor – Named School in South East after her)



A. Shepherd



Judith Rogers - Corporation Counsel



John Ray and John A. Wilson



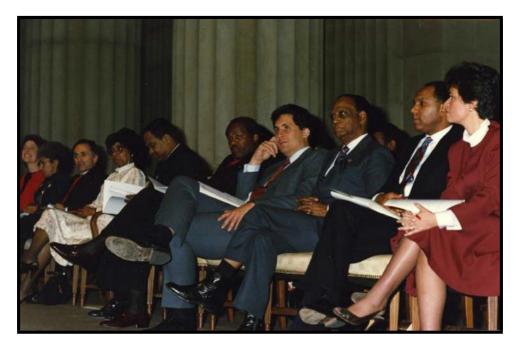
Linda Cropp with husband, Dwight



Harry Thomas, Sr., H.R. Crawford, and John Ray at diplomatic reception



Frank Smith, Jr., Jim Nathanson and Hilda Mason at Diplomatic reception



Betty Anne Kane, Hilda H. M. Mason, Jim Nathanson, Nadine P. Winter, Walter Fauntroy, Marion S. Barry, David A. Clarke, Harry Thomas, Sr., John A. Wilson, and Sharon Pratt Kelly



Harry Thomas, Sr. and wife Romaine Thomas



Wilhelmina Rolark with husband, Calvin



Councilmember Yvette Alexander with young constituents



David A. Catania testifying on DC Voting Rights



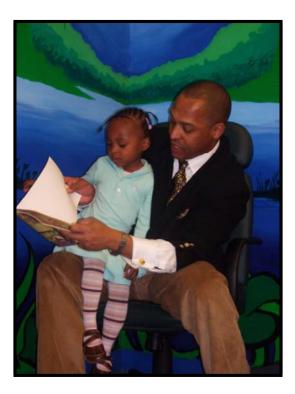
Kwame Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Carol Schwartz, Adrian M. Fenty, Vincent C. Gray, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Paul Strauss Fighting for DC Voting Rights



Jack Evans, Adrian M. Fenty, Phil Mendelson speaking on Voting Rights



Phil Mendelson, Adrian M. Fenty, Jack Evans speaking on Voting Rights



Reading time with Harry Thomas, Jr.



The Cat in the Hat! Harry Thomas, Jr. with students



Kwame Brown opening doors in education



Kwame Brown fighting for DC Voting Rights



Trip to Denver



Marion S. Barry and colleagues at ribbon cutting ceremony



Cleaning up the neighborhood with Muriel Bowser



Mary Cheh



Muriel Bowser – a role model for youth



Phil Mendelson with daughter Addie in China Town



Phil Mendelson supporting "Bike to Work Day"



Carol Schwartz on the front lines for DC Voting Rights



Mary Cheh, Jim Graham, Vincent C. Gray, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Harry Thomas, Jr., Kwame Brown and Carol Schwartz marching for DC Voting Rights



Jim Graham with Ward 1 Constituents