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NEWS

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MARCH 2021

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

mark your Zoom calendar

March 10, noon

Topic: Redistricting in Washington
Speakers: Brady Walkinshaw, chief executive officer of Grist magazine and Senate Democratic Caucus Appointee, and April Sims, Washington State Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer and House Democratic Caucus Appointee to the 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission.



Brady Walkinshaw



April Sims

(photos by Andrew Villeneuve)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82308988778?pwd=ZklEdDUxKlV0UzNsenZCc1hvbFhWUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0898 8778

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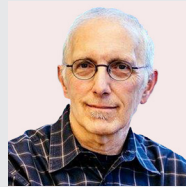
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March 24, noon

Topic: Nick Licata's new book, Student Power, Democracy & Revolution in the Sixties, which will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing later this year.

Speaker: Nick Licata, MDC lifetime honored member, former president of the MDC, former Seattle City Councilmember, author of *Becoming a Citizen Activist* (which won a Gold Medal for Social Activism), founding board chair of Local Progress (a network of progressive elected officials), and writer of *Citizenship Politics* newsletter.



Nick Licata

Join Zoom Meeting

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Lem Howell describes fighting racism in courts

Celebrated civil rights lawyer Lem Howell, was the guest speaker at the February 24 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. His presentation, "Fighting Racism Through Washington Courts," was originally presented February 17 to the Washington State Association for Justice. The MDC recorded the February 24 presentation; it is accessible on the MDC's website, www.metrodems.org. The written version has been sent to MDC members and friends.

Mr Howell first provided some background about racism in Washington during the 1960s, and described some older Washington



Lem Howell

Supreme Court cases involving discrimination. He then described police shooting cases, other civil rights cases, fighting discrimination in employment, and affirmative action and admission procedures in education, specifically the University of Washington School of Law.

Mr Howell became a member of the MDC in 1967 and has served on the organization's board of directors for most of the time since then.



Letters to the editor

Dear editor,

We thank MDC members for supporting the UNEA/Clear Sky Resolution. The Seattle Public School Board approved a version of the UNEA/Clear Sky Resolution supporting Billy Frank Jr. Day on March 9, 2021 in the Seattle Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Carol and Jim Simmons



Burgess speaks on Seattle crises

“Good policing is problem solving,” former Seattle City Council President and Interim Mayor Tim Burgess told the participants in his February 17 presentation to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, as he addressed crises of homelessness, public safety and economic opportunity in Seattle.



Tim Burgess

We need to approach policing in a professional way, he continued; to do that we need to understand the history of policing and how it has disproportionately affected Black

populations.. The solution, he said, has to be grounded in that history; and it is not defunding without a plan. The solution does involve developing statewide standards, he explained, for example, raising age limits for police, requiring more education, raising standards for promotion, and developing higher levels of accountability.

Mr Burgess also addressed the crisis of homelessness in Seattle. Last year, he said, there were 3,728 people living unsheltered, 60 percent of whom have been diagnosed with substance abuse addiction or other health challenges. The rest are considered chronically homeless, he said.

The City Council’s tolerance and

obituary Al Rasmussen ?? – 2021

Al Rasmussen, a member of the MDC for many years, died February 12. Al spent his last years living at Horizon House. He frequently wrote articles for The MDC News and made generous donations to the organization.

Editor’s note: If anyone has additional information about Al please send it to me at walkere1@msn.com.



Al Rasmussen

accommodation approach has resulted in camps, some of which are in public parks and playgrounds, becoming permanent, making them inaccessible to others, he noted. He said we need to view these unsheltered individuals as a health problem and to provide housing.

It’s important that we create economic opportunity for all, Mr Burgess emphasized, by providing early education starting in the first five years of life, investing in neighborhoods and revitalizing downtown.



Mosqueda staffers address cutting police budget

Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda was unable to accept the invitation of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle to speak at the MDC’s February 10 meeting about cutting Seattle’s police budget. Instead members and friends heard from Mosqueda’s chief of staff, Sejal Parikh, and her legislative aide, Aretha Basu.

Ms Parikh said that Seattle needs to narrow the scope of what the police department should be doing and that we need to shift the culture of the department back to more traditional police work. For example, she explained, most calls are “nonviolent” and do not require police intervention.

When asked about the issue of police officers leaving the service, Ms Basu said that this is not specific to Seattle, but is a national trend. The city council is concerned about what services are needed and how they are going to be provided, she continued.



Sejal Parikh



Aretha Basu



Membership renewal date appears on above label

March 2021

METROPOLITAN
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OF SEATTLE

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