

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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TO: THE CITIZENS OF MONTGOMERY-COUNTY-----

FROM: THE CONFEDERATION OF ALABAMA POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY (COAPO)

THIS ORGANIZATION IS SET UP TO INCLUDE ALL THE CIVIC, POLITICAL, BUSINESS, FRATERNAL, RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY - BARBERS, BEAUTICIANS, NURSES, CRAFTSMEN, LABORERS, PREACHERS, PROFESSORS, LAWYERS AND DOCTORS. EACH ORGANIZATION IS ASKED TO SEND AT LEAST TWO OF ITS MEMBERS TO REPRESENT ON EACH OF THE THREE MAJOR COMMITTEES OF THE ORGANIZATION: THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEE, THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE COMMITTEE, AND THE PATRONAGE COMMITTEE. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO REPRESENT A CROSS-SECTION OF THE NEGRO COMMUNITY AND TO INVOLVE ALL THE PEOPLE---YOU AND YOU AND YOU---IN THE MAKING OF POLITICAL DECISIONS AFFECTING YOUR GENERAL WELFARE. WHAT IS ADVOCATED, THEN, IS AN ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, AND BY THE PEOPLE. THIS IS DEMOCRACY!!!

### BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED???

HERE IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THUS FAR. LETTERS WERE SENT OUT TO ALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AND TO INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, WEDNESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 23, 1956. AT THIS MEETING A MIMEOGRAPHED BULLETIN SETTING FORTH THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PERSONS PRESENT, INCLUDING MR. RUFUS LEWIS, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BULLETIN THAT WAS THIS RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT MR. RUFUS A. LEWIS SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY ORGANIZATION."

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS ADOPTED BY THE GROUP. THIS WAS DONE IN CONSIDERATION OF HIS LONG YEARS OF SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE WITH VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY. THERE WAS NO DESIRE TO SPLIT OR DIVIDE; ONLY TO UNITE ALL OUR FORCES BEHIND ONE COMMON OBJECTIVE--REALIZING AS WAS PRINTED ON THE BULLETIN: "WHERE THERE IS UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!"

UNFORTUNATELY THIS ORGANIZATION (COAPO) WAS UNABLE TO SECURE OR RETAIN THE LEADERSHIP SERVICES OF MR. LEWIS. HENCE, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROCEED AT A LATER MEETING TO ELECT ANOTHER CHAIRMAN AND GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION. THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE.

NOW, THE ORGANIZATION--WHICH REPRESENTS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE NEGRO COMMUNITY, HAS BEEN FORMED. IT IS THE PEOPLE ORGANIZATION--YOURS AND YOURS AND YOURS! THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEE HAS MET WITH AND WILL CONTINUE TO MEET AND INTERVIEW THE CANDIDATES SEEKING POLITICAL OFFICE AND THE NEGRO VOTE. THEY WILL MAKE NO DEALS AND ACCEPT NO MONEY--NEITHER ON THE TABLE, OVER THE TABLE, NOR UNDER THE TABLE. THEY SIMPLY WILL PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE, ACTING ON THE BEST EVIDENCE OBTAINABLE, WILL OFFER SUGGESTIONS ON POLITICAL CANDIDATES WHO THEY FEEL ARE MOST DESERVING OF THE NEGRO VOTE, AND WHO CAN AND WILL DO MORE OR MOST FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE POLITICAL DECISION IS UP TO YOU THE PEOPLE. THIS IS A DEMOCRACY. THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS COMMITTEES CAN ONLY SUGGEST--ON BASIS OF THE BEST EVIDENCE AVAILABLE. THE FINAL DECISION IS AND MUST BE YOURS AND YOURS AND YOURS! BUT BY ALL MEANS VOTE! AND MAY YOU NEVER FORGET: THE PRICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION HAS BEEN TOO HIGH TO NEGLECT THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE!

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS  
of  
CITIZEN'S POLITICAL COUNCIL

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of promoting interest and active participating of our members and the community in the affairs of our local, State, and National Government and for preserving and distributing statistics and information of value along these lines, we do hereby form ourselves into the Citizen's Political Council.

Article I.

Name

The Name of this organization shall be the CITIZEN'S POLITICAL COUNCIL.

Article II.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the organization shall be open to all interested citizens who are voters or potential voters and are concerned with the political affairs of our community and are willing to work in this organization to help solve them.

OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be a president, a first and second vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer and chaplin. These officers shall hold office for one year.

Article IV.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An executive committee, consisting of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of this organization and of three elected members, shall be chosen at the time of electing the regular officers.

Article V.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings of this organization shall be held in Citizens club on \_\_\_\_\_ each month.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the president, and must be called

November 7, 1955

## I Organizations Represented

- A. Y.A.D.
- B. Phi Beta Sigma
- C. Elks
- D. Shriners
- E. Trinity Lutheran Church
- F. Alpha Phi
- G. Antigua Male Chorus
- H. Washing Post.
- I. Political Engineering Society
- J. North Court St Baptist Church

MR. Blair

Coordinating Committee for Ward Captain Information.  
to work out general plan getting wards broken down into blocks

1. Mr. Lewis
2. Attorney Gray
3. Mr. Massey
- 4.



II Pointed out by Attorney Gray that the Progressive Democrats are planning a program for registering citizens. MR. Blair suggested a committee composed of Mr. Lewis and MR. \_\_\_\_\_ to contact P.D. in order to coordinate efforts.

As a method of contacting citizens, Attorney Gray suggested that city be divided into sections. Mr. Lewis suggested that Ward Captains be appointed, then the wards would be divided into blocks and e.t.c. — Block leaders to contact all persons in their block. — Rev. Grady suggested that wards with heavy negro population should have two or more captains in order to equalize the work of each Captain.

## III Proposed Ward Captains

- 1- Mr. Howard Ward, Mr. W.H. Purify, Rev. Grady + Mr. Hood
- 2- Mr. Howard Ward, Mr. W.H. Purify, Rev. Grady + Mr. Hood
- 3-
- 4- MR. Lewis, Word 4 + Mr. Frank Massey
- 5-
- 6- Mr. West Powell + Mrs. Frank Powell - Word 6
- 7- MR. Conley + MR Blair, - Word 7

Suggested by Mr. Howard that reports by captains be made to Advisory Committee Weekly

## DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENSHIP

It is My Duty and Obligation:

1. To Vote.
2. To pay taxes.
3. To respect the American Flag.
4. To live peacefully with my fellowman.
5. To serve on jury when called.
6. To help the court in giving evidence.
7. To obey the laws.
8. To believe in free elections.
9. To be ruled by the majority.
10. To respect the opinion of the minority.
11. To abide by the laws of the city, state, and the Federal government.
12. To serve in the armed forces when needed.
13. To support charitable and Civic activities of my community.
14. To take active part in worthwhile community projects.
15. To be loyal and faithful to my country.
16. To become more useful to my country so that it can achieve its ideals.
17. To control my thoughts, words, and actions in order not to do damage to my country.