

RAHWAY News Record

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

VOL. 168 NO. 2

RAHWAY, N.J., THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1990

USPS 454-160

25 CENTS

Mayor charges Fulcomer with 'gross insensitivity'

*Calls 'outrageous' the local GOP Chairman's
self-appointment as Housing Authority Commissioner
after terminating his minority predecessor*

Mayor Daniel L. Martin has charged Republican City Chairman James Fulcomer and the local Republican Party with gross insensitivity to minorities and to senior citizens regarding the replacement of local Housing Authority Commissioner Ruby Scott by Fulcomer himself. "Fulcomer's actions in this matter are outrageous," Martin said, "and make it clear that the local Republican Party does not believe in or practice the politics of inclusion."

The Mayor also attacked Republican Council Members Katherine Fulcomer, Michael Esposito, and William Wuuck for "further insensitivity to minorities" by their votes against 4th Ward Council Member Chester Holmes to replace former 4th Ward Council Member Harvey Williams as a Rahway representative to the Union County Utilities Authority.

"Mr. and Mrs. Fulcomer and Mr. Esposito and Mr. Wuuck have a lot of explaining to do to this people of Rahway and particularly to minorities and senior citizens," Martin charged.

The Mayor explained the Housing Authority situation by pointing out that every Housing Authority in the State has, by law, one commissioner who is appointed by the State. This appointment is made upon the recommendation of the local political party chairman.

"In Rahway," Martin said, "this appointment to the Housing Authority has

traditionally been filled by a minority to ensure adequate minority representation on the Authority." "The last two appointments, covering well over 20 years, with one by the recommendation of the Republican City Chairman before Fulcomer and one by the then Democratic Chairman, have been minority appointments," Martin said, "and under my administration we have also added an additional local minority representative."

"Now," the Mayor stated, "Mr. Fulcomer has had the current State minority representative — Mrs. Ruby Scott — summarily terminated and replaced her with himself."

"If this weren't a bad enough slap in the face to minorities," Martin commented, "there are two factors making it much worse."

"First," he explained, "Mrs. Scott is and has been seriously ill for a long time and has not been able to attend a meeting since September 4, 1986." "Why did Mr. Fulcomer wait until now, the last month of the lame duck Republican administration in Trenton, to terminate Mrs. Scott?" Martin asked.

"I want to guarantee the people of Rahway and our minority community that the day that Jim Florio is sworn in as Governor, I and our Democratic City Chairman will see to it that Fulcomer is thrown out of this position and replaced by a minority representative," the Mayor declared.

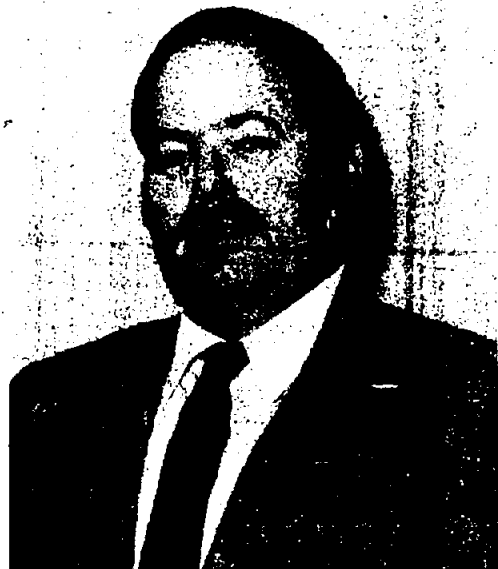
"Secondly," Martin charged, "what is also a disgrace is the way Fulcomer had Mrs. Scott summarily discharged, without regard to her or her family, or any effort to seek them out." "I will see to it," the Mayor said, "that Mrs. Scott is honored for her service, and her family appropriately contacted, which is what I would have done when the time came for a new appointment anyway."

Martin pointed out that Mrs. Scott is elderly, ill, and institutionalized in a southern state and "it upsets me to see that an institutionalized elderly person has been treated with such a lack of respect and dignity by Fulcomer and the local Republicans."

"This is another classic sleazy Fulcomer move and another demonstration of how the local Republicans care only about exploiting our community for their own personal advancement," the Mayor charged.

Martin added that "local Republican insensitivity to minorities was further demonstrated in the negative votes January 2 of the three Republican Council Members against having the 4th Ward Council Member as a representative on the Union County Utilities Authority."

"The reason I established the principle of appointing the 4th Ward Council Member to this position is because the resource recovery project to be built by the Authority is nearest to a



Mayor Daniel Martin

minority neighborhood in a predominantly minority ward," the Mayor said. "I just can't believe that Esposito, Mrs. Fulcomer, and Wuuck do not support the principle that the elected representative of this neighborhood and this ward be one of our representatives for this project," Martin stated. "This, too, is outrageous and another slap in the face to minorities," he

said. "What would they do," the Mayor queried, "say that they prefer someone other than the person elected by the people of the neighborhood and the ward?"

"The actions of local Republicans against the interests of Rahway's minority population demand explanations and deserve to be condemned by all Rahway officials and citizens," the Mayor concluded.

Library Board to meet

The Board of Trustees of the Rahway Public Library will hold its Annual Re-Organization meeting at the Library, 1175 St. George Avenue, on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m.

MVS to close for King birthday

All motor vehicle inspection stations, regional service centers, driver testing centers and agencies will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday.

Fulcomer's response: Mayor's comments 'outrageous ... is setting up a smoke screen ... engaging in a smear attack'

by Pat DiMaggio
Republican Party Chairman James Fulcomer has denied charges of "gross insensitivity" leveled by Mayor Daniel Martin and said he has supported minorities throughout his career.

Fulcomer, a former City Councilman and County Freeholder, denied that he was responsible for the dismissal of long-time Commissioner Mrs. Ruby Scott from the local Housing Authority. He said he does not have the power to terminate a commissioner of the local authority and said the dismissal was made by the Department of Community Affairs on the recommendation of the Governor.

"When the Democratic Governor takes office, a Democrat will be appointed," said Fulcomer. "With the Republican administration still in Trenton, I am just closing out the last month of the administration. When the new administration gets its feet on the ground, a Democrat will take my place. This is just normal procedure."

Fulcomer said Mrs. Scott was replaced because she has been living out-of-state and has been unable to serve in the position.

He also said the Republican Party has a proven

track record of support for minorities and women. "The mayor's comments are outrageous," said Fulcomer. "He knows full well that the Republican Party does practice inclusion. The Republican Party fielded a minority candidate for public office (Evelyn Wilson) and we are the only party in Rahway to have had female members of the community elected to public office."

As a Freeholder, Fulcomer said he voted for the "Set Aside" Program, which would act to set aside business for minorities and voted for the first black director of the Union County Correctional Facility.

"The only person exploiting our community is the mayor," continued Fulcomer. "He is afraid of having anyone on the Housing Authority who disagrees with him. He is trying to hide something and is setting up a smoke screen. The mayor would rather have no one voting for the state at these meetings than for a Republican. He is just trying to cover up his own inadequacies by engaging in a smear attack against someone who doesn't agree with him."

Fulcomer also defended the charges against Re-



James Fulcomer

publican Councilmembers Michael Esposito, Katherine Fulcomer, and William Wuuck who voted against the designation of 4th Ward Councilman Chester Holmes to the Union County Utilities Authority.

"Instead of designating a puppet of Martin's, we supported the appointment of Dave Brown who has

worked to represent his neighborhood against the resource recovery facility," noted Fulcomer. Brown has been a vocal opponent of the burn facility and has acted as a representative of those 4th Ward residents who resoundingly defeated the referendum for the facility in their neighborhood.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... a legend recalled

by Pat DiMaggio
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an inspiration for minorities during his lifetime and has become an even stronger influence on American life since his death in 1968. His leadership in the nonviolent movement for ra-

cial equality and human dignity, from the boycott of segregated busing in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, until his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, has touched the lives of black and white, rich and poor, young and old.

On January 15, both local and state residents will pay homage to the man who changed the face of race relations in the U.S.

Dr. King, Jr. was born in Atlanta in 1929. He was educated at Morehouse College and the Crozer Theological Seminary, where he earned the Pearl Plafkner Prize for Scholarship.

King received his Ph.D. degree from Boston University in 1955 and D.D. degrees from both Boston Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Theological Seminary. While serving as the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, he assumed the leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott, which ended segregation of city buses.

The use of non violence in combating discrimination put King in the headlines. From then on, he became the symbol of the fight for

equality and was named "Man of the Year" by Time magazine in 1963.

King was one of the organizers of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and staged massive demonstrations to carry the struggle for equality into other areas of the nation.

The March on Washington in 1963 culminated with his moving speech and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

For King, the pinnacle of public recognition came in 1964, when he received the Nobel Peace Prize, given annually to the individual who has contributed most to the "furtherance of peace among men."



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968-1969

Needed: One basketball player

The Rahway Basketball Association is seeking a player for its 1990-1991 season. The player should be a high school senior or college graduate, at least 6'2" tall, and have a strong background in basketball. For more information, contact the Rahway Basketball Association at 1175 St. George Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065.



DOUBLE FIRST ... New Year's Day took on a doubly special meaning for both the Rahway Maternity Services Department and Phyllis Krause of Linden when Krause gave birth to William Kevin, the hospital's first delivery of 1990! Congratulating mother and baby are Randi Margolis, R.N., and Krause's obstetrician, David Beauchamp, M.D. Soon after delivery, mom and baby joined Dad, William, and big brother, 6-year-old Joseph William, at home to find that William Kevin was also the first baby to be born to a Linden resident in the new year!



ARTS CENTER PROGRESS ... George Argast, center, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Rahway, looks over the Union County Arts Center program for the first half of 1990. Arts Center V.P. Tom Connell, at the left, and President Eric Rickes (right) were guest speakers at the first Kiwanis Club of Rahway meeting for 1990. Connell and Rickes gave a brief history of how the Rahway Theater on Rahway's living Street evolved into becoming designated the Union County Arts Center. Argast emceed shows there on several occasions. The Kiwanis Club recently sponsored a raffle that raised \$6,000 for the Arts Center. The club meets on Wednesdays at 12:15 at the Columbian Club in Rahway.

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