

HGLPC News

June 1997

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

Caucus may endorse for mayor, at-large races at Aug. 6 meeting

**Join or renew
by July 7**

HGLPC PAC Screening Committee Co-Chairs Ray Ramirez and Jay Seegers recommend that the HGLPC PAC vote on its mayoral endorsement and most at-large City Council races at the August 6 general membership meeting.

The co-chairs planned to recommend the early endorsements at the May 21 caucus Political Action Committee Board meeting (held just as this newsletter was going to press).



**Endorsements
'97**

Now that Mayor Bob Lanier and several Council members will be term-limited out of office in November, city races are accelerating. Any serious citywide candidate is already campaigning. Several announced (or likely) candidates have already indicated at caucus PAC events that they plan to court the gay and lesbian vote.

These mayoral candidates include former Houston Police Chief Lee Brown, former City Controller George Greanias, State Rep. Sylvester Turner,

(See Anyone, page 3)

HPD chief supports equal treatment

BY CICELY WYNNE

"People should not be discriminated against in any form or fashion based on sexual orientation."

Times seemed to have changed at the Houston Police Department.

Seven-month rookie HPD Chief Clarence Bradford charmed 'em, disarmed 'em and occasionally alarmed some at the May 14 "At the Table" forum. The event was hosted by HGLPC and P-FLAG and sponsored by OutSmart magazine.

Gays and Lesbians in HPD

"HPD has gay and lesbian officers and employees. If they can do the job, sexual orientation should have nothing to do with their job."

"Gays are welcome" in HPD, Bradford said,

although "Some don't want them there." He pledged to do everything he could to remove barriers up front. If he finds homophobic recruiters, he said he would "fire them."

"Gays and lesbians should be in HPD just like every other group. Sexual orientation is not something we screen for."

"If an applicant says he's gay," Bradford would do everything he could to ensure "they get the same treatment as everyone else."

Hate Crimes

About 1,300 hate crimes were reported last year in Houston. Bradford said

(See Bradford, Page 4)

**Banner
Days
Ahead**

Wed. June 4
HGLPC meeting, first Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett. Refreshments, 7 p.m.

Wed. July 2
HGLPC meeting, first Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett.

July 7 - Deadline
to join or renew membership to be eligible to vote for mayor and at-large Council endorsements, tentatively set for Aug. 6 HGLPC meeting. *(Box, p.3)*

July 17-31
Screening Panels for mayor and at-large City Council candidates (tentative dates). Open to any member. Call 521-1000 to sign up.

Wed. August 6
Mayoral and at-large City Council Endorsements tentatively scheduled for HGLPC meeting, 7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Select, 2712 Southwest Freeway.

Newsletter Underwriting



HUBBARD

Financial Services, Inc.

Bookkeeping and Tax Service



(713) 522-9000

FAX: (713) 526-6588

2615 MONTROSE BOULEVARD

PO BOX 66588 ♦ HOUSTON, TX 77266-6588

Lobo Book Shop

**Magazines Videos
Cards T-Shirts Jewelry
Books**

3939 Montrose, Suite S 522-5156

SOUTHEAST MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC

MARK GARTNER, RMT

4201 River Drive

Houston, TX 77017

**Appointments
(713) 645-5252**

**Fax
(713) 645-2777**



**DISTINCTIVE LODGING &
CATERING ACCOMODATIONS**

**(713) 522-5224
800-779-5224**

**TOM FRICKE
Innkeeper**

**The Lovett Inn
501 Lovett Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77006**

(Fax) 528-6708

**Your Business Card Ad
Here
Reaches 2,000 People
Every Month
ONLY \$20
521-1000**

Inklings

*Books, music and more
for the lesbian, gay and feminist communities*

1846 Richmond Ave.

(713) 521-3369

HGLPC Officers and Board

President Lane Lewis
Vice President Bill Clevenger
Treasurer Kevin Davidson
Secretary Scott Simpson

Board Members

Board Chair Clarence Bagby
Bill Agosto, Robert Johnson,
Clair Koepsel, Brandy Miller,
Ray Ramirez, Mike Stubblefield,
Jay Seegers, LuJack Tyler

HGLPC News is the monthly
publication of the Houston Gay
and Lesbian Political Caucus,
P.O. Box 66664
Houston, TX 77266
(713-521-1000)

For advertising rates,
call 521-1000.
Cicely Wynne,
newsletter editor

Anyone can join, screen and endorse candidates

(Continued from page 1)

and State Sen. John Whitmire. Council member Helen Huey has also announced, and Council member Gracie Saenz has indicated she will run.

Ramirez and Seegers also said they would propose that, with some possible exceptions, the HGLPC PAC also endorse in other November 4 citywide races at its August 6 meeting.

Several at-large City Council candidates have indicated that they plan to seek an endorsement from the HGLPC PAC, including former Caucus President Annise Parker, who is running for at-large position No. 1, and City Council member Chris Bell. At-large candidate Carroll Robinson attended the recent caucus Power Brunch. Former Caucus President Ray Hill has also said he will seek the PAC's endorsement if he decides to run for a City Council seat.

HGLPC PAC activities include publicizing the PAC endorsements in local and regional news publications and in the PAC election newspaper mailed to more than 20,000 voters. The PAC also supports en-

dorsed candidates by block walking precincts, phone banking, organizing groups to volunteer in endorsed candidates' campaigns, and distributing more than 30,000 push cards.

Join or renew by July 7 to vote Aug. 6

Anyone who joins or renews membership in the HGLPC PAC (which includes all caucus members) by July 7 is eligible to vote at the August 6 meeting. Any new member must wait 30 days before voting at a membership meeting but can screen candidates as soon as they join.

All members who are interested in participating in election activity or in serving on a screening panel should notify Screening Co-Chairs Ray Ramirez or Jay Seegers at the June or July membership meeting, or call the caucus office at 521-1000.

Those who renew their membership within 30 days of the expiration date are eligible to vote immediately upon renewal. Anyone who waits longer than 30 days to renew must wait 30 days to vote at a regular meeting. If you have a question about membership status, call the office at 521-1000.

July Screening Panels

During the last two weeks in July, screening panels will interview all candidates seeking the HGLPC PAC endorsement. The screening panels will provide their recommendations for endorsement at the August 6 meeting.

The screening co-chairs recommend later endorsements for district Council races because those contests take shape closer to the filing deadline and because of possible federal indictments against several Council members.

Early Start Crucial

Ramirez and Seegers believe it is important for the PAC to endorse candidates for the November election as early as the August 6 meeting to provide the PAC with ample opportunity to implement get-out-the-vote activities for PAC-endorsed candidates.

A large gay/lesbian turnout is expected to play a key role in the hot mayor's race and in several at-large Council races.



HGLPC Membership Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ \$30 Regular annual dues | ☐ \$100 Sustaining |
| ☐ \$50 2-year membership
or family membership | ☐ \$1,000 Lifetime |

PAYMENT: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Mail to: HGLPC, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266 or Call 521-1000.

HGLPC
P.O. Box 66664
Houston, TX 77266-6664

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT NO. 2023

Address Correction Requested

Bradford stresses need for more youth "centers"

(Continued from p. 1)

hate crimes reporting became an issue after Paul Broussard's murder in 1992.

That tragedy prompted HPD to add gays and lesbians to the human relations training at the Police Academy. It was "absolute chaos," Bradford recalled. "You needed a gun that day." Reluctant officers were finally persuaded by the safety argument: You have to know your community to be safe in it and to provide good service.

HPD and our Community

HPD has made "tremendous progress" in its relationship with the gay/lesbian community, Bradford said. Since 1992, the chief has spoken to every Police Academy cadet class.

He said he tips his hat to community leaders like Annise Parker and Ray Hill, who have helped improve relations. "I'm proud of today's cadets for not falling for this assimilation

thing." In his day, officers were "born again" into the department. "Today's cadets were raised in a more diverse community, and they're not buying into stereotypes as much... We still have a long way to go," Bradford said.

Changing HPD

"Not many people at HPD love academics," Bradford observed. Therefore, they are "less disciplined" without a great deal of exposure to the world. It's a "close-knit culture. You can't change it overnight."

"But some barriers have been removed. All barriers have been lowered—I'm chief."

HPD has made "substantial progress" in teaching officers to see the "beauty of our commonality" and to quit focusing on differences.

As he tells officers, "It's easy to understand crime." But an officer plays four roles: 1. planner 2. problem solver 3. law enforcement officer and 4. community organizer.

Brady law

It's a "good law." In one two-week period, 100 of 1,000 applications for gun purchases were rejected.

Crime Prevention and Youth

"The best rehabilitation is punishment."

"Treat while incarcerated." Too often, the chief said, criminals go through treatment programs again and again but don't stop criminal behavior.

"But," he stressed after confessing to sounding like a lock'em-up and throw-away-the-key kinda cop, "We need more resources for first-time offenders and young people."

He would like to see more youth centers and school and church facilities open during the summer and on Saturdays. "Youth will keep doing illegal activities if they have nothing to do."