

Cropps

LINDA



Rated-T reporter Lashay Singletary had a chance to interview mayoral candidate, Linda Cropp at a construction site on L Street in downtown DC. She was having a press conference at this location to announce her new job training initiative. During her press conference she spoke about how she could change the District but our *Rated-T* staff was not convinced since she has been in office for a long time and has not done many of the things she is promising now. In her campaign she has outlined a vision with new plans for the District. You can read about part of this vision from answers she gave to Lashay on the issues of minimum wage, jobs, homelessness, affordable housing, gang-related crime and using the cigarette tax to fund programs for the needy.

Photo by Ahmed Davis. Transcription by Charmiese Anderson. Lashay Singletary attends Woodson Collegiate Academy. Ahmed Davis and Chameise Anderson are 2006 graduates of Blow Pierce Junior Academy.

★ = 25%



RATING

The Issues

Minimum Wage and Employment

Today I announced my Job Opportunities Initiative that would provide better training program for our workers, expand daycare opportunities so that mothers will be able to get out to work, improve literacy for our residents so that they would have the skills to apply for and take the tests for jobs, and expand vocational and apprenticeship training programs so that our residents will have marketable skills to become electricians, carpenters and plumbers—job that pay really good wages. In addition, I want to create educational programs so that those who want to go to college will have the skills necessary to be successful. We want our apprenticeship and vocational programs to be accessible to all DC residents so that they will be able to get a marketable skill that they can use throughout their lives. And we want our high schools to graduate students who are ready for a clear choice of going into the world of work or going on to higher education in a college or university setting.

Homelessness

We have a comprehensive housing task force program that I helped to fund with recommendations for 55,000 more housing units in the city. For homelessness, part of the solution is to help those who need it get treatment for mental health issues and also provide more single room occupancy for individuals where they would be provided with a single room for themselves personally while living in a group environment. We are also seeing an explosion of more families who are homeless and we are planning to build programs around that.

Teen Crime

There is no doubt that gang-on-gang activities are harmful and we should discourage them. We need to prevent this. We can do that by having community-based organizations

help the city. There are a lot of young group-lead organizations that go out and talk to our young people to give them a sense of hope and let them know that they are loved and that there are other things that they can do outside of joining gangs. Young people don't have to be accepted only in a gang. They can be accepted by doing other activities. We need to provide those opportunities for our young folks.

Gentrification/Affordable Housing

We should have affordable housing for people who grew up in this city and for people who work in this city. They should all be able to live in this city. DC is big enough for everyone to come in. I have a program on my website, LindaCroppforMayor.com where I outline different steps toward affordable housing. We can just say to developers, "if we're giving you this land to develop for housing, there's going to be a certain number of units that must be for affordable housing. And when I say affordable, I

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mean that people who make anywhere from \$18,000 to \$80,000 per year should be able to afford a house. That's the type of program that we're going to have in a Cropp administration—to let people who work in the city also be able to live in it.

A Cigarette Tax

I am not necessarily in favor of increasing taxes. In order to raise a tax, I've got to make sure that there is no other way we can bring more money in. I would rather run a more efficient government and bring in more revenue than