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City of Fort Worth



Photo by Sanford A. Sims/La Vida News

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price takes a break from discussing City of Fort Worth growth and poses with South East Fort Worth, Inc. Director Andre McEwing. Fort Worth has grown to be the 16th largest city in the United States...surpassing my former home, Detroit, MI.

Betsy Price speaks out!

Fort Worth mayor shares views with FW Black Chamber

By SANFORD A. SIMS

La Vida News Staff

When Betsy Price was running for Mayor of Fort Worth, she graciously afforded *La Vida News - The Black Voice* an interview. What remained embedded most in my mind from doing that interview was her accessibility and openness.

With most high profile people, there is a marked difference between their "on-air" and "off-air" personalities. Many are warm and fuzzy "on-air" and cold and arrogant

"off-air." Not so with Betsy Price. At her recent appearance at the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Members Breakfast, she was the same accessible and open person I knew *before* the mayoral race.

Betsy Price had time for everyone at the breakfast -- sponsored by Lockhart Construction and held at the Fort Worth Events Center on Evans Avenue in Fort Worth -- from Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks to young, under twelve year old "future lead-

ers."

Holding true to her word, Betsy Price believes in governing by getting out and meeting people instead of sitting behind a desk. She indicated that small businesses are the backbone of our country and city. That's why she supports the City of Fort Worth's Young Leaders Initiative and the PATHS Forward Initiative sponsored by the FWMBCC. She feels we must identify young leaders 21-40 years old and get them engaged.

Betsy Price is using her fiduciary skills (as former Tarrant County Tax Assessor - Collector) to balance the City of Fort Worth pension fund, and she is supporting a major initiative in applying unspent funding for mobility that includes lots of road work over the next eighteen months. She feels we must prepare for expansion...and long-term, we need to look at commuter railroads.

Getting the Fort Worth Independent School District running right is a priority for Betsy Price because she believes that every child in Fort Worth has to get a good education. Getting kids back in school is part of the solution.

The Barnett Shale offers Fort Worth a tremendous opportunity to grow because it supplies energy and jobs. According to Betsy, we must be committed to environmental issues (such as clean air and water) as well as drilling for dollars. Regarding redistricting, Betsy feels the 8-1 alignment is the most feasible, but wants everyone to get involved to voice their opinion.

Fort Worth's Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. initiative is unique in that it has -- and is -- revitalizing the Southeast Sector of Fort Worth without gentrifying it. Improvements are made to benefit residents originally living there as well as encouraging new residents to join them.

Betsy Price cited initiatives such as the Hazel Harvey Peace Center and the Renaissance Center -- soon to house a huge Wal-Mart anchor store -- as examples of the progress Fort Worth is making in this vital area of city growth. She praised Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. Director Andre McEwing, and Fort Worth City Council members Kathleen Hicks and Frank Moss for their contributions. To her, this is an excellent example of the types of public/private initiatives she supports.

According to Betsy, "Good things come to those who wait. Great things come to those who get out and make things happen." She wants *everyone* to get out and get involved, and she invites anyone with something to say to stay in touch by calling 817.713.0500 or e-mailing mayorbetsy@fortworthtexas.gov.