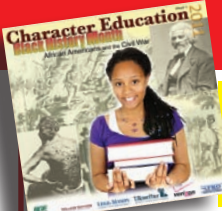


# The AFRO American



**Bowie Bulldogs Extend Winning Streak B8**



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**Character Education Special Section insert**

**Michael Williams Out Front for Tea Party A2**

## Settlement Impacts Pr. George's SWAT Tactics

By AFRO Staff

Prince George's County and Berwyn Heights Mayor Chye Calvo have reached a settlement in a suit over the unlawful shooting of Calvo's two dogs during a raid on his home in 2008.

As a part of the settlement, Calvo will be paid an undisclosed sum of money, but he's also leveraged the situation to change how SWAT teams

and Prevention have created a format that requires SWAT teams statewide to make specified reports to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention every six months.

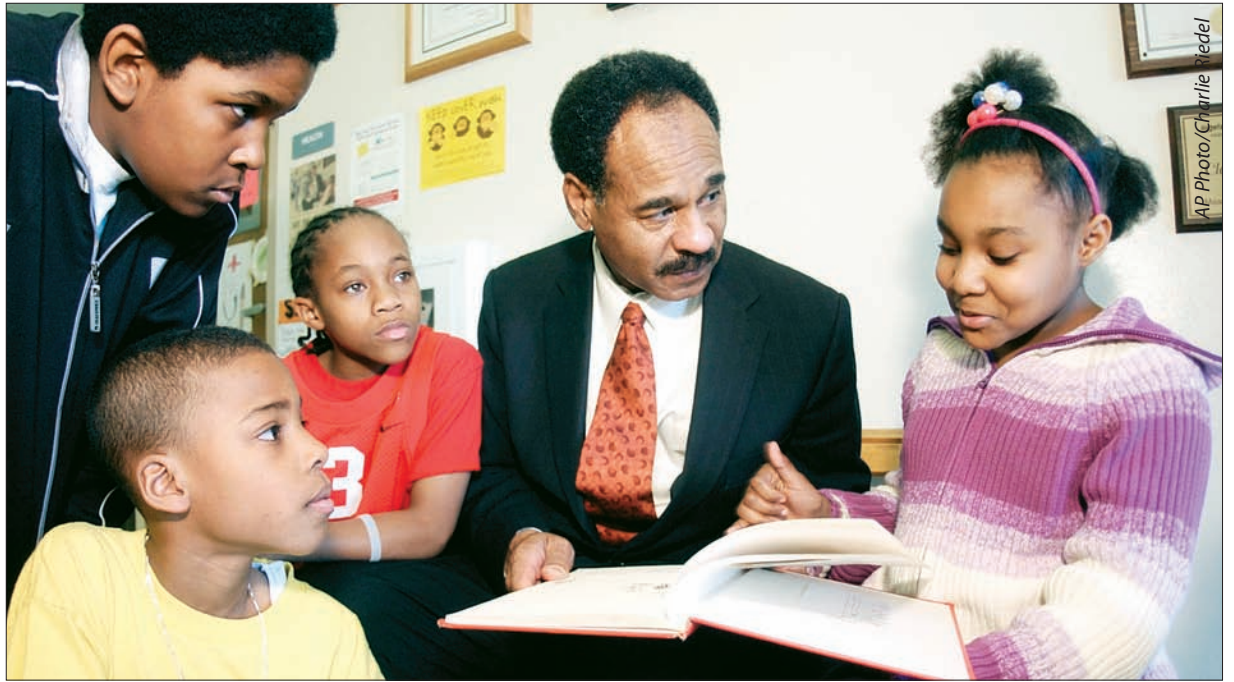
On July 29, 2008, Prince George's County Sheriff deputies raided Calvo's house after a shipment of marijuana was delivered to Calvo's address. The deputies barged into Calvo's house, handcuffing Calvo, his wife and mother-in-law and shooting his two Labrador retrievers.

Police officials later determined that package was sent by drug traffickers who would send packages to random addresses and pick them up outside the addressee's home. Despite being cleared in the controversy, former Sheriff Michael Jackson maintained that his deputies did the right thing when they shot Calvo's dogs. Jackson told the

*Washington Post* that his officers were compromised when Calvo's mother-in-law, Georgia Porter, screamed out "SWAT" so his officers had to run into the house.

He said Porter "corroborated that she did scream out 'SWAT.' She admitted to that, and [Calvo] admitted to hearing that upstairs in the house.

*Continued on A4*



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, shown with Missouri elementary school children in this March 4, 2005 file photo, is the new chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

## CBC Chair Shares Insight for Session

By Andrea L. "Aunni" Young  
*Special to the Afro*

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress has convened with a new chairman for the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II. Coming to the House of Representatives for his third term from Missouri's Fifth District, he serves on the Financial Services Committee, Homeland Security Committee and the Speaker's Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

The Congressional Black Caucus was formed in 1971 to

help improve the ability of Black elected officials to support their constituencies. It is also "at the forefront of legislative campaigns for human and civil rights for all citizens," according to the organization's website.

Shortly after taking the office of chair, Rep. Cleaver answered a few questions for the *AFRO*.

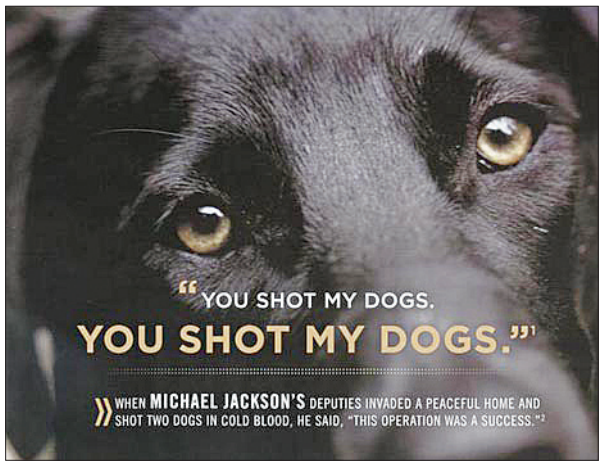
**Q:** What are some of the core issues you would like to see the CBC focus on during your term?

**Chairman Cleaver:** We are going to help the president in his

goal of creating jobs. One of the major problems with the last two years is our inability to demonstrate to the American public ... that we were pushing for jobs. They didn't see it. We've got to support the president on any plan that he brings forth to create jobs. We will begin this [immediately], sending communications to the White House about the need for summer jobs for youth.

**Q:** What concerns does the CBC have with the outcome of the Census?

*Continued on A5*



*Courtesy Photo*

**Ad release dissuading county residents from voting for Michael Jackson after mishandling the Calvo raid.**

operate in the county—in particular, how it deals with animals and "no-knock" warrants.

Also as a result of the incident, the Maryland General Assembly and Gov. Martin O'Malley passed a law requiring more oversight for SWAT teams in the state. The Police Training Commission and Governor's Office of Crime Control

**WHUR 96.3**  
Hear the *AFRO* on The Daily Drum, Wednesday at 7 p.m.



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## County Accountability Task Force has Tough Task

By George Barnette  
*AFRO Staff Writer*

With Prince George's County being placed under the microscope after the Jack Johnson scandal, county officials sought to find a way to clean up county government. That effort led to the creation of the Accountability, Compliance Integrity (ACI) Advisory Board. At its first meeting, Jan. 29, it realized it had much work to do.

Sitting on the board, as chair, is former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke as chair, joined by retired Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge William Missouri as vice chair. Also on the committee are Patricia Adams, commissioner with the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission; Linda Botts, a top aide to former County Executive Wayne Curry, and former Councilman Peter Shapiro, D.-Dist. 2.

The ACI Advisory Board will look into all areas of county government, reviewing oversight and looking at best practices from local, state and federal agencies.

At the end of the process, it will provide recommendations to the county council and County Executive Baker.

That task is easier said than done. The scope of the problems facing the county is huge – possibly



**Former Baltimore Mayor Kurth Schmoke is chair of the new Prince George's County Accountability, Compliance Integrity Advisory Board.**

bigger than even some of the board members know, several of the members admitted. At one point during the meeting, Schmoke asked if it were just a pay-to-play issue, but the response he received let him know that fraud inside the county's government may go beyond that.

"I think it's a problem and it's a big problem," Shapiro replied. "I think our mandate is broader than that. I think that's what's in the news most. There's lots and lots of data to support there's a pay-to-play culture."

Adams went even further than Shapiro saying she still needed to familiarize herself with how the different agencies within the county's government conduct business. "I need to educate myself," Adams said. "We need to

*Continued on A4*

## Another Crisis at the Top of Forest Heights Leadership

By George Barnette  
*AFRO Staff Writer*

Once again, the town of Forest Heights has disciplined its chief executive over improprieties in office. According to reports, Mayor Andrea McCutcheon has been accused of spending town funding without council approval.

The suspension comes at a pressing time for the small town hugging the Prince George's/District of Columbia line, which is already dealing with a myriad of issues.

Forest Heights is one of the communities stricken by the violence that plagued the county during the first half of January. Terrance Calvin Hunter, 30, was shot and killed at Southview Apartments on Jan. 5.

Someone has been arrested in that case, but Forest Heights Police Chief Lt. Frank R. Webb has recently warned residents of a rise in auto thefts and police impersonators in the community.

Residents are also up in arms over speed cameras installed in the town. Many took the municipal government to task over the cameras, but officials said it was necessary for safer travel.

When the cameras were initially installed early last summer, the number of citations issued peaked at about 1,500 per week, but decreased to about 1,000 in mid-July. McCutcheon, who noted the cameras generated an estimated \$1 million in revenue, said



**Forest Heights Mayor Andrea McCutcheon has been suspended through the rest of her term.**

the cameras were for the safety of people trying to cross the busy Indian Head Highway.

"This statistic shows that Operation Get Home Safe is effective in getting drivers to slow down and in promoting public safety in town," said McCutcheon in a statement.

McCutcheon's issues make this three of the last four Forest Heights mayors to be disciplined and the second time over the misuse of funds. In 2006, former mayor Myles Spires' was suspended from September through December over allegations that he misused funds. As a result, the town changed its charter so that mayoral terms were limited to two years.

Spires was cleared of the charges but filed suit against the town in June

*Continued on A5*