

Written by Kathy

Tuesday, 09 January 2018 19:50 - Last Updated Friday, 12 January 2018 23:22



Clevelandurbannews.com and Kathywraycolemanonlinenewsblog.com , Ohio's most read Black digital newspaper and Black blog with some 5 million views on Google Plus alone. Tel: (216) 659-0473 and Email: editor@clevelandurbannews.com. Kathy Wray Coleman, editor-in-chief, and who trained for 17 years at the Call and Post Newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio. We interviewed former president Barack Obama one-on-one when he was campaigning for president. As to the Obama interview,

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CLEVELAND URBAN NEWS.COM-CLEVELAND, Ohio— The Central Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party will meet Thursday to decide who, among four people, will replace former county councilman Anthony Hairston, who was elected in November to the ward 10 seat on Cleveland City Council and was sworn in this month to his new position.

Candidates seeking the district 10 county council seat vacated by Hairston are community activist Rico Dancy, Cleveland Heights Councilwoman Cheryl Stephens, who is a CEO at the East Akron neighborhood Development Corporation, Brian Davis, the former director of the Northeast Ohio coalition for the homeless, and Michael Houser, a former candidate for state representative who works as a special assistant to the chief of staff of County Executive Armond Budish.

Four candidates, 3 Black and 1 White, seek appointment to the Cuyahoga County Council seat vacated by

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Dancy, Stephens and Houser are Black and Davis is White.

On Cuyahoga County Council since 2014 and until he resigned last month, Hairston is Black, and a Democrat in the heavily Democratic Cuyahoga County, the second largest of 88 counties statewide that includes the city of Cleveland and is roughly 29 percent Black.

Because Hairston vacated his seat two years into his four-year term it is up for grabs for this year's election, regardless of whom is appointed on Thursday to the unexpired term to replace him.

District 10 includes parts of Cleveland in wards 8 and 10, and all of East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, University Heights and the village of Bratenahl.

An 11-member governmental body, Cuyahoga County Council differs from the 17-member Cleveland City Council, and the part-time job of county council member pays \$45,000 a year.

It is a relatively new form of governance for the county led by a county executive and county council that took effect in 2011 after voters, amid a public corruption scandal, dumped a three-member board of commissioners and all elected county offices but the judges and chose a governance structure of a county executive that hires and fires the county sheriff, coroner, treasurer, fiscal officer, and clerk of courts, and per the approval of county council.

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In cooperation with the public corruption scandal some 61 Democratic affiliates, mainly businessmen, have either taken plea deals or been found guilty of public-corruption related crimes, including two former common pleas judges who served federal prison time, and former county commissioner Jimmy Dimora, now serving a 28-year sentence for racketeering and other crimes in office, and former county auditor Frank Russo, Dimora's side-kick who is serving a 22-year prison sentence.

Dimora is a former chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party

A Beachwood Democrat and former state representative, Budish, who is up for re-election this year, is the county's second county executive behind Ed FitzGerald, a Democrat who took office in 2011 but did not seek another four-year term because he ran instead for governor, and lost to the now term-limited John Kasich, a Republican .

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