



City of Cambridge

Councillor Henry F. Owens, III

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1973

ORDERED:-

That this City Council go on record endorsing the sentiments expressed in the following editorial of the Boston Globe which appeared on Monday, January 8, 1973

EDITORIAL

Blacks and the new judges

In compliance with a state referendum setting mandatory retirement at age 70, 36 Massachusetts judges have been forced to retire, and Gov. Francis W. Sargent has submitted to the Executive Council the names of 15 nominees to replace them.

the nominations so far, it seems to us, are most praiseworthy, and not least because they include two woman and two blacks. Of the latter two, David S. Nelson has been named to the Superior Court, and Richard L. Banks of Needham to the Municipal Court of the Roxbury District.

There is still a very great need however, for a black judge in the third district court of eastern Middlesex, sitting in Cambridge, one of whose four judges, M. Edward Viola, died recently at the end of a distinguished career and another, Haven Parker, is among those compelled to retire.

The need arises because this court has a high percentage of cases involving teen-age black defendants and experience has shown that with a white judge handling them there is too often a barrier in communicating and understanding on the part of both jurist and defendant. Some black defendants, for example, after high bail was imposed to keep them in jail, have remained there for as long as 18 months, and misunderstandings have also arisen in pleadings over the erasure of court records.

With two vacancies to fill, the governor might look into this problem of the all-white East Cambridge Court if he has not already done so.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:-

That His Excellency the Governor be and hereby is requested to give serious consideration to the appointment of one black judge to fill one of the two existing vacancies in the Third District Court at East Cambridge



City of Cambridge

Councillor Henry F. Owens, III

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1973

caused by the retirement of the late M. Edward Viola and Judge Haven
Parker

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:-

That the City Clerk deliver in hand a copy of this order to the
Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth.

City Council Jan. 8, 1973

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Paul E. Leahy
CITY CLERK

Order #8.

10

Councillor Owens - City Council endorse
the sentiments expressed in editorial
of Boston Globe "Blacks and the new judges"

In City Council

January 8, 1973