

# Candidates square off on police, business issues

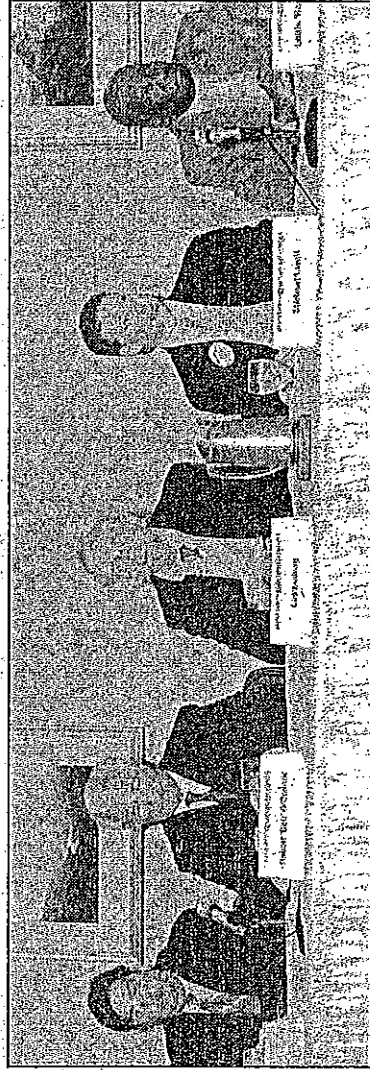


PHOTO BY DON PAGE  
**MAYORAL FORUM**—Candidates field questions at mayoral forum hosted by African-American Chamber.

members of the police force to testify at board hearings. Michael Lamb simply answered yes while Kendrick and Peduto took the opportunity to blast frontrunner Bob O'Connor.

"If you have a mayor that coddles the police they will continue to run amok," charged Kendrick, who noted that O'Connor is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the police union. "Bob O'Connor is in bed with the FOP," Kendrick charged. "Of the candidates here I am the only one who has experience as a police officer and knows what we are dealing with. These police think they are invincible and we need a mayor who will stand up when they deserve to

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The candidates also addressed certain hot-button issues such as the citizens review board, county and city combining services, the Mayor's role in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and of course the city's budget crisis. O'Connor's opponents, Louis "Hop" Kendrick, Allegheny County prothonotary Michael Lamb; Squirrel Hill businessman Lester Ludwig and first-term City Council member William Peduto, went on the attack against O'Connor. The most hotly discussed topic seemed to be the issue of the Civilian Police Review Board. The candidates were asked if they would compel

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# Mayoral candidates display business savvy

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be reprimanded."

Peduto joined in the fray, noting that the Murphy administration had not been cooperative with the Citizens Police Review Board, and neither had O'Connor during his tenure on City Council and as council president.

"Bob (O'Connor) has been against the civilian review board since the beginning," said Peduto. "He voted against its creation and he voted against having officers testify. We can have officers testify before the board," he said. "It

was done in Philadelphia under Ed Rendell and it can be done here."

O'Connor questioned the legality of having officers testify in front of the review board saying, "The review board has to get more teeth, but I've talked to lawyers and I don't think we can legally force officers to testify."

But the audience at the forum really wanted to hear the candidates' views on improving minority business opportunity.

Michael Lamb stressed equality and diversity in busi-

ness opportunities for both minorities and women while commenting on his ability to cut costs with his experience in the prothonotary's office. He noted that he

O'Connor expressed that one of his greatest strengths was the ability to work with people and reiterated his plan to re-open city pools with the help of community organizations, citing how Macedonia Baptist Church took over the Annons Recreation center.

Peduto suggested following Ed Rendell's models for the civilian review board while re-

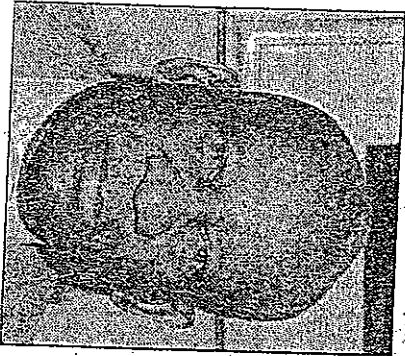
mindful all in attendance that he was the first elected city official to suggest the city should be considered for Act 47 distressed status.

The candidates also fielded a question that had to deal with the regulations that put minority and small businesses at a disadvantage when it concerns city contracts. Kendrick said as mayor he would make sure that minority business had a fair opportunity to compete with unions.

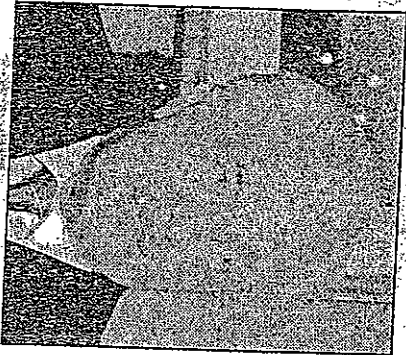
"The Lincoln-Larimer section of the city is one of the poorest neighborhoods in

western Pennsylvania," asked Kendrick. "There are plans to build 400 new housing units in that section of the city. If this is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, who is going to be able to pay for this new housing?"

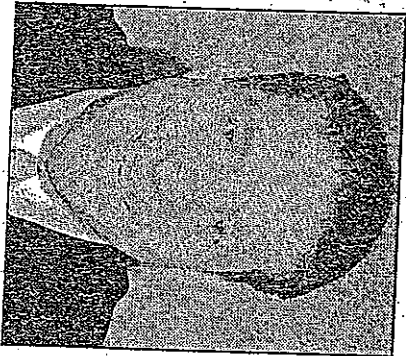
For the most part the three main candidates, O'Connor, Peduto and Lamb, made general comments using words such as equality, diversity and economic development, but no candidate explained any specific plan of action for economic development as it pertains to the Black community.



LOUIS 'HOP' KENDRICK



BOB O'CONNOR



MICHAEL LAMB



WILLIAM PEDUTO



LESTER LUDWIG