

Michael Weeks - April 12, 2012

Good Afternoon,

Madam Premier, fellow members of the Progressive Labor Party, family, friends, ladies and gentlemen.....

I humbly come before you today, appreciating the confidence placed in me, and accepting the nomination as the candidate for Constituency # 16, Pembroke East Central. It is an honor, to be nominated again for such an important responsibility.

I recall the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who said, AND I QUOTE

“Occasionally in life, there are moments which cannot be completely explained by words. Their meaning can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart”.

This nomination is one of those moments for me.

Since that fateful day on **August (27<sup>th</sup> 2009)**, when I won the bye-election, **after the untimely passing of Brother Nelson Bascome Jr**, I have worked tirelessly in the Pembroke East Central area, both WITH the people and FOR the people.

I have **POUNDED THE PAVEMENT WEEKLY**, sat in the living rooms, kitchens and stood in the yards of hundreds of my constituents; listening intently to their issues and, discussing the needs of our community. And together, we have worked towards the betterment of our constituency in particular, and the country as a whole...

My aim as the MP for Pembroke East Central has always been to make difference ‘ONE STREET CORNER AT A TIME’.....and when the residents of Pembroke East Central expressed a need for improvements I worked diligently to address their concerns by establishing a Community Action Plan, which includes:

- the many Street Lights which have been erected or corrected,
- the paving and improving upon various roadways
- the implementation of speed bumps
  - CCTV which provides a sense of security and a deterrent from crime,
- our Neighborhood Watch Program
- the removal of *some* ‘Derelict Houses’ , which were not only an ‘eyesore’ but, a shelter for the perpetuation of drug activity,
- the Cleaning and Resurrection of the Parks located in the area,
- the clean - ups done in the Friswell’s Hill, Glebe Road and the St. Monica’s Road areas (*in conjunction with KBB, The Community Action Team (Bermuda Police Service) and Friswell’s Hill United*),

And lastly, but certainly not least, I was instrumental in forming the group, “ONE COMMUNITY UNIFIED”. A group consisting of church leaders and community organizations that addresses the many social ills affecting constituency #16 and other neighbouring communities.

On a National level ---- I have also been instrumental (along with a few of my colleagues) with the introduction of the Job Corps Program – a recommendation from ‘the Mincy Report’. I feel that this program will go a long way to assist our young people, who need to be trained and or retrained for job preparation in 21<sup>st</sup> century Bermuda.

Many of our young people are feeling disconnected and disjointed. However, with the implementation of JOB CORPS, and other Mincy recommendations, we will address many of the issues that our young people are facing.

I currently serve as the Vice President of the Western Stars Sports Club and I am also a member of the Leopards Club. In this capacity I would love to work with our Sports Clubs and Workmen’s Club to develop stronger and more responsible programmes that will benefit our young people in particular and the community as a whole.

**So again**, thank you Madam Premier and Constituents, for your faith in ME, and I look forward, to again serving as the MP for Constituency # 16, PEMBROKE EAST CENTRAL.