



Trailblazers honorees, seated, from left: Johnny Clark, Elga Sharpe, Winifred Yancy and Richard Williams. Standing, from left: LAABP Director Henry Chisom, Treasurer Sharon Loudd, President Terrence Montgomery, Director Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, Director Carmen Steward, and Vice President David Jackson.



From left: LAABP members Maurice Dawkins, Antoinette Woodward and Miranda Paster.



Cora Jackson-Fossett and Sharon Loudd served as hosts.



From left: 2009 Trailblazer Rashad Mfume, Michael Espinoza, honoree Commissioner Capri Maddox, and Dequita Mfume.



From left: CDD General Manager Greg Irish (2011 Trailblazer honoree), CDD Regional Director Florita Avila, and CDD Executive Olivia Mitchell (2010 Trailblazer honoree).

LAABP

The Trailblazers

Black employees association hosts annual Trailblazers reception.

Story by Cora Jackson-Fossett, Public Works, Club Member; Photos by Tyrone Washington

More than 125 people attended the seventh annual Trailblazers Reception, held in the Tom Bradley Room at City Hall. The event, held Feb. 27, was sponsored by the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP).

"We are pleased to recognizing employees who have contributed to the progress of African-Americans in City government as

well as achieved notable positions in their City careers," said LAABP President Terrence Montgomery.

The honorees were Johnny Clark, Elga Sharpe, Richard Williams and Winifred Yancy. Capri Maddox, president of the Board of Public Works, received a LAABP Special Recognition award.

Among the guests offering salutes were Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Councilman Bernard Tom LaBonge. Also attending were Greg Irish, Interim General Manager, Community Development; Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services; Ron Nichols, General Manager, DWP; and June Lagmay, City Clerk.

Carmen Steward served as committee chairperson. She was assisted by Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, Sharon Loudd, Cora Jackson-Fossett, Ruby Love, JoAnn Moss, Shawn Magee, David Jackson, Henry Chisom and Antoinette Woodward.

The LAABP, a 500-member organization, is the official representative for City of Los Angeles employees of African-American heritage. Incorporated in 1972, the LAABP advocates equal employment within the City's workforce and increased opportunities for "people of color" to attain management and executive positions. Among the services the organization provides are career development seminars, mock interview program and networking forums. Since 2003, LAABP has presented more than \$75,000 in scholarships to college-bound students.



General Services General Manager Tony Royster.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.



Renee Anderson and Charley Mims of SEIU Local 721.



Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, and honoree Elga Sharpe.

Elga Sharpe is the first African American Protocol Director for the Office of the Mayor.

She began her City career with Mayor James Hahn and was retained by Mayor Villaraigosa.

As Protocol Director, Sharpe plans and coordinates events involving foreign dignitaries, diplomats and international guests. She credits her parents with inspiring her to pursue this career by exposing her to different cultures. Sharpe also mentors young students interested in Foreign Service careers.

As for her keys to job success, she says, "I follow my instincts and I have always had a vision of bringing people from different cultures together."

Elga Sharpe
Protocol Director



Johnny Clark.

Johnny Clark is a Bindery Worker for General Services/Publishing Services. He started with the City in 2002 as a Duplicating Machine Operator and now oversees the Central Duplicating shop.

According to his supervisor, Johnny is an excellent employee who makes customer service a priority, meets tight deadlines, and goes the extra mile all the time.

During his career, Johnny has received several awards and commendations including "MVP – Most Valuable Performance" of the General Services Department. He also serves as a national delegate for SEIU Local 721, and he's certified by FEMA to assist in local disasters.

Johnny Clark
Bindery Worker



DWP employees and General Manager Ron Nichols salute honoree Winifred Yancy.

Winifred Yancy is the Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Relations, reporting directly to the DWP General Manager. An engineer by profession, Yancy converted that experience into a community relations career.

Yancy attributes her career success to her attitude of not expecting to be given anything, but earn things on her own. She mentors and encourages others with preparing for exams and by providing mock interviews.

Her philosophy is "No Deposit, No Return" – don't expect an opportunity to avail itself when you have not prepared for it.

Winifred Yancy
Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Relations



City Clerk June Legmay (third from left), LAABP Board Members and City Clerk employees congratulate honoree Richard Williams (center).

Richard Williams is the first African-American male to be appointed Legislative Assistant. In this position, he represents the City Clerk at all Council Committee meetings and prepares reports for City Council consideration.

Williams joined the City in 1984 and over the last 29 years, he has worked in progressively important positions at eight different City departments.

He also has received many City awards in part because he believes in "excellence, quality and detail" in his work as well as sharing knowledge and information with others.

Richard Williams
Legislative Assistant