

## Reverend Anthony J. Motley

Via Email

March 20, 2010

Mr. Tom Sherwood  
The Northwest Current  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Sherwood,

I am very troubled and perplexed at what seems to be your selective reporting and comments. In nearly thirty years of community service and organizing for the citizens of the District of Columbia in general and in particularly the residents of Ward Eight, you have never reported on anything that I have done or accomplished. Yet you find it a teachable moment to write about an automobile I have lent to a friend to drive because his automobile is not running and the allocation of funds through legitimate actions and methods which you characterize as “shifting” around. Even in government and the private sector alike there are times when re-allocations are made in order to balance budgets and compensate for shortfalls, which you also characterized as “slushy money”. While at this point nothing has been proven as being done illegally, or unethically, yet you go on to further say that “these types of things are not the foundation for a good run for council---or anything else.” You have drawn conclusions based on a report that has been refuted in some respects and systematically clarified in others.

Mr. Sherwood, it is obvious that your teachable moment is based solely on politics and politics alone. You did mention in the opening sentence of your commentary that I am planning a race for an at-large council seat. Your assertions simply put are not based on the merits and facts of the matter at hand. Was that your intentions, to sway your readers away from supporting my candidacy for city council?

In closing, if you are as pure as you make yourself out to be, since you are a reporter, here are a few facts you should be willing to share with your readers for what I would say is **Teachable Moment #6:**

The Reverend Anthony J. Motley is: A graduate of Anacostia High School; an honorably discharged Disabled American Veteran who served in the United States

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Army as a Paratrooper and Combat Engineer; a former Social Studies Teacher; a past President of the Coalition for the Homeless, which under my tenure sponsored the placement of seven transitional homes throughout the city; co-founder of the East of the River Clergy, Police, Community Partnership, an anti-violence youth initiative; co-founder of the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation, supporting the re-invigoration of vocational education in the District of Columbia; co-founder of The Academy of Construction and Design at Cardozo Senior High School, teaching young people the construction trades; Founder and Director of the Bellevue Resource Center for Reentry, Homeownership, Workforce Development and Mentoring; co-founder of RIGHT, Inc. a housing and support services program for women and families impacted by HIV/AIDS; the primary organizer of a team of 20 volunteers from the District who went to the Gulf Coast in response to Hurricane Katrina with thousands of pounds of supplies and materials; recognized with a Resolution from the Council of the District of Columbia; an Outstanding Young Man in America; a recipient of the Tribute to Excellence Award; an awardee of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award; the subject of a featured article in the Washington Post Magazine; and, a recent recipient of the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) Award of Excellence.

Mr. Sherwood, the above are just a few of my accomplishments and recognitions I thought I would share with you.

So, for your first ever piece about me to be about a car I lent to a friend, and a report that in and of itself has questionable intentions, and outcomes which by the way are being challenged, leads me to conclude that your motives for sharing what you did are not as pure as your writing purports to be. One could in fact conclude, based on the above, that your motives could be both racially and politically inspired, and not at all journalistic.

Sincerely yours,

*Anthony J. Motley*

Reverend Anthony J. Motley

Cc: Davis Kennedy, Publisher & Editor  
Chris Kain, Managing Editor