

# FRANK CALLEN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CHANGING NAMES?

By Walter B. Simmons

Recently, it came to the attention of the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club Alumni and Friends Association that plans were being made to drop the name Frank Callen from the local Club. A hurry-up meeting between the Callen Club's executive director and the president of their board of directors brought forth that a name change was indeed being and had been considered for at least two years.

Speaking fervently, passionately and eloquently in opposition were Joe Murray Rivers, who has served as president of the Callen Board, Commissioner James J. Holmes, who served the Club in a professional capacity for 35 years, Dorothy B. Campbell, former board president, Edward B. Campbell and Melvin Mason, former executive directors, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Brown, community activists.

Dorothy H. Scott, a neighbor of the Club for more than fifty years, Raymond Rouse, long-time volunteer and Walter B. (49) Simmons, who has served the Club for more than fifty years in various capacities.

We learned from a Boys Club of America Regional Official, that while they are encouraging a change- nation wide, that the final decision would rest with the local club. We ended the meeting by asking of the Frank Callen Board of Directors president John Herdina and it's executive director, Vince DelMonte to apprise the Callen Board of our feelings and to give us an opportunity to discuss this decision with them before they reach a final decision.

Immediately following this meeting a formal letter was sent, to the Frank Callen Board's president expressing our opposition, sensitivities and views.

The Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club Alumni and Friends Association is opposed to any changing of name for the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club that would delete, or eventually lead to the deletion of the name Frank Callen from the official charter of Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

For further information, you may contact Commissioner James J. Holmes at (912) 238-3796.

