



FRANK DIMARCO



JACQUELYN LOVE



PAUL MEDANY



PHILLIP SCHOCKLIN



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'Coincidence or circumstance?'



Staff photos by Jonathan Wells

Deptford residents (from left) Lillie Wilson, Dorothy Brown and Sheree Knight, all members of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Southern New Jersey Chapter, hold signs in support of Jackie Love at the Deptford reorganization meeting at the Deptford Municipal Building Saturday.

Deptford's selection for mayor sparks racism, sexism allegations

By Allegra Tver

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DEPTFORD TWP. — Councilwoman Jacquelyn Love — who has served as Deputy Mayor of Deptford Township for the past 10 years — will remain in her position, after council members appointed 5-year committeeman Paul Medany to the mayor's seat at the reorganization meeting Saturday.

Love received shouts from the crowd — numbering into the hundreds and spilling out into the lobby of the municipal hall — and a standing ovation as she was guided through the oath of office by state Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez.

With his wife and son looking on, Mayor Paul Medany was sworn in by state Sen. Stephen Sweeney.

"We did think this leadership would have the courage to step up and vote Love in as mayor after all her years of leadership," said Maxine Bagley, vice

president of finance for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Southern New Jersey Chapter. "I have never seen such an aberration in succession of leadership. I think there are gender issues here."

This comes in addition to allegations — by township and county residents — that racism may have played a role in Medany's nod.

"I am in a position where I just don't want to believe any of that," Love said.

But John Love — the Deputy Mayor's nephew — cited former council members Alice Darnell Corsey and Robert Carter — both black — as examples of minorities who came very close to winning elections for mayor, but never elevated to that office.

"Is this a coincidence or a circumstance?" Mr. Love said.

Shortly after the election, the council began talking about appointing Medany as mayor, Love said.

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