

University of Memphis

University of Memphis Digital Commons

Documents

Shaw, Patricia Walker, papers

6-14-2021

Patricia Walker Shaw Nominated to Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Board, 1973

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-mss-pwshaw1>

Memphis, Tenn., Thursday Morning, September 6, 1973

Black Will Be First Woman Nominated To LG&W Board

Patricia Shaw, a 34-year-old black insurance executive, will be nominated to the board of Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division, Mayor Wyeth Chandler said yesterday.

Mrs. Shaw, assistant vice president and research analyst for Universal Life Insurance Co., will be the first woman to serve on LG&W's five-member board if the nomination is approved by the City Council.

Chandler's selection was applauded by Councilman Gwen Awsumb, who suggested Mrs. Shaw to fill the unexpired term of Herman Arthur Gilliam, also a Universal Life executive, who died July 28.

Mrs. Awsumb recently pledged to vote against the mayor's nominees to the utility's governing board until a woman was appointed. "Of course the fact that the vacancy opened up from the death of a black member makes this particular nomination very attractive to me, so that we can not only have continued representation of that group but also a woman."

"It'll be kind of interesting to see how they react to a woman," said Mrs. Shaw, who because of a mail mixup received word of the nomination from newsmen.

She said she hoped to represent "the consumer generally" rather than any particular group. "I'll be able to question some things that heretofore have



Mrs. Patricia Shaw

—Staff Photo

just been hearsay or read-about type things. I can bring kind of a common knowledge of Memphis Light, Gas & Water to it, sort of from the other side," she said.

"I see myself not representing just a so-called minority group but all people who perhaps have wanted to say what they feel about the services provided by Light, Gas & Water for the community. In other words, I'll be speaking for everybody."

Mrs. Shaw said she had been modestly active in the civil rights and women's movements but felt "the women's liberation movement is too extreme. To me the biggest issue is discrimination against anyone because they're different or because they don't fit certain roles. I think the bigger issue is human rights."

Mrs. Shaw and her husband, Harold Shaw, also a Universal Life assistant vice president, have one son and live at 1674 South Parkway East.