

### [Duke Energy secures space for DNC](#) (Charlotte Observer – June 2, 2011)

By Jim Morrill

Duke Energy, which is underwriting a \$10 million line of credit for Charlotte's Democratic National Convention, also is providing space for the host committee and the party operatives they'll work with. The convention organizers, including a new host committee staff named Wednesday, will work out of South Tryon Street offices leased by Duke. The space represents a so-called in-kind contribution from the energy company. The contract between the city, host committee and the party bars the hosts from taking corporate cash but not in-kind donations. Dan Murrey, executive director of the Charlotte in 2012 host committee, said the contribution is within the rules. Duke spokesman Tom Williams said, "it's part of our ongoing support for the DNC effort." Duke CEO Jim Rogers is leading a fundraising campaign to raise nearly \$37 million for the convention. Organizers are expected to eventually work out of three floors of the building. It's unclear how much the space would cost on the market. Murrey also announced the staff of the host committee. They'll work with a team from the Democratic National Committee, expected to arrive in Charlotte this month. Newly named staffers are:

**Torre Jessup**, deputy executive director of external relations. He has worked in U.S. Rep. **Mel Watt's**

Charlotte office for 16 years, most recently as district director.

**Dockery Clark**, chief of staff. She's a veteran brand marketer and manager.

**Mary Tribble**, chief of event planning. She has managed many events, including the NBA All-Star game and Final Four celebrations.

**Melissa Schwartz**, finance director. She was a key regional finance director for the last two Democratic presidential campaigns and has extensive fundraising experience.

**Leah Chandler**, deputy finance director. She served as a key fundraiser for two U.S. Senate campaigns and as Midwest Finance Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

**Bobby Martin**, chief financial officer. He has 41 years of accounting experience, specializing in auditing nonprofit organizations.

**Joe Sandler**, legal counsel. He served as general counsel for the Democratic National Committee for 15 years and has served as counsel for every Democratic national convention since 1996.