



TAWNYA MORRIS

Background

Tawnya Morris has been a long time advocate for jobs, justice and equality. In 2015, she served as Communications Coordinator for the March for Justice, an ecumenical movement promoting jobs, justice and peace throughout our region. Mrs. Morris has also served as a Southfield Democratic Precinct Delegate, a Coordinator for Southfield for Obama, and as a Block Captain. Through these roles, Mrs. Morris helped people register to vote, increased voter education and awareness, and addressed resident concerns with city government.

Mrs. Morris is currently the Board President of the Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation, the Vice President of the Washington Heights Civic Association, and an Advisory Board member of the Southfield Community Anti-Drug Coalition. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters, Southfield Lathrup Democratic Club, Martin Luther King Jr. Task Force, NAACP, ACLU, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence's Women's Advisory Committee, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she serves as Chair of the Southfield Alumnae Chapter's Voting Laws and Redistricting Sub-Committee.

Mrs. Morris is also a Southfield Public Schools Volunteer and has served as a guest presenter at Southfield Public Schools Power in Our Voices Student Community Forum, guest speaker at Southfield Public Schools Future Leaders, Ready Readers Program, and participant in Southfield Public Schools Celebrity Reader Program.

Mrs. Morris holds a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan, a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University, and a Business Executive Education Certificate - Growing the Minority Business to Scale from Dartmouth College's Tuck School. She is also a proud graduate of Southfield High School.

Mrs. Morris has been invested in Southfield for over 35 years.

She enjoys the arts, reading, writing, board games and spending time with her family. She has been married to Mr. Bruce Morris for 21 years and has three children - Hannah, Brooke and Brock.

Work & Career Experience

For the past 5 1/2 years, Mrs. Morris has served as a Councilwoman for the City of Southfield, working to move the city toward equitable and sustainable development, while helping residents resolve issues and concerns. As Chair of the Neighborhood Services Committee, Mrs. Morris implemented programs that created collaborative partnerships between residents, businesses, and government that helped increase neighborhood revitalization efforts and property values. Mrs. Morris also served as Chair of the Economic Development Committee where she worked to expand resources and support for small businesses, attract new business and encourage development within the city. Other committees served include: Finance Committee, Site Plan Committee, Northland Committee, Legislative Committee and Boards and Commissions.

For the past 23 years, Tawnya Morris has served as President and CEO of the Abayomi Community Development Corporation, a faith-based nonprofit in northwest Detroit. Her work in community and economic development has had a significant impact on thousands of youth and families in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Mrs. Morris helped plan and design the New St. Mark Family Life Center where she served as its construction project manager. This valuable community resource, although in Detroit, provides educational and recreational opportunities for all who visit. It also serves as a business incubator for entrepreneurship and job creation.

Mrs. Morris also serves as a Performance Consultant at Trinity Health where she helps develop, lead and support the organization's strategy and initiatives for diversity and inclusion.

Accomplishments

ADMINISTRATION

- Approval of CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funding and expenditures
- Called for the renaming of City Hall to the Donald M. Fracassi Municipal complex in honor of his over 50 years of service to the city
- Approved a balanced General Fund budget annually for the past four (4) years
- Approved staff training for new software for Building and Planning Departments
- Approved new hires for Building Department to increase inspections and process permits faster
- Coordinated water drive for Flint residents

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Traveled to South Korea as a City of Southfield delegate to help bolster partnerships in business and education with our Sister City, Dongducheon. Also donated books from our country in dedication of their local school library.
- Attended over 50 ribbon cutting ceremonies, programs and/or events celebrating new business development in the City of Southfield.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Implemented Blue Tarp Program where code enforcement monitored and encouraged removal of blue tarps on residential and business properties to help improve neighborhood appearances.
- Addressed code enforcement issues at monthly Neighborhood Services Committee meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Approved the formation of the Southfield Wildlife Advisory Commission
- Voted **NO** to oil and gas drilling in residential areas of the City of Southfield
- Approved ecological burn at Carpenter Lake and Valley Woods Nature Preserve to combat invasive species and restore healthy woodlands for plant and animal life
- Wrote and was awarded \$8,000 grant for Southfield Christian School to start a Recycling Program

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

- Wrote and approved **Resolution 2019.73** City of Southfield's Hiring Process –Unclassified Positions in an effort to ensure council members understand talent recruitment strategies for senior management positions and are included in the process. Two council members will be on interview panel.
- Called for the City of Southfield's Ethics Policy to be placed on the city's website to ensure transparency and accountability of elected officials.
- Participated in Annual Council Visioning Sessions to identify goals and priorities for the upcoming year.

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

- Wrote and approved **Resolution 2017.341** Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Foreclosure Program in an effort to allow property owners of tax foreclosed properties an opportunity to pay all delinquent fees and have property transferred and conveyed back to them.
- Hosted Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in partnership with Andy Meisner, Oakland County Treasurer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Helped lead charge on getting our roads repaired faster and better with quality inspections
- Hosted Town Hall on the Roads to educate residents about scheduled road and sewer construction projects and how our road bond dollars are spent
- Approved 2016 Road & Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Program
- Approved **Resolution 2019.57** authorizing the issuance of the 2019 Water Sewer Capitol Improvement Bond
- Approved a Capitol Improvement Plan for City of Southfield Facilities
- Approved Sustainable Southfield Master Plan
- Called for the installation of Black Lives Matter signs in front of City Hall

LEGISLATIVE

- Called for a moratorium on small box discount stores
- Voted **YES** to medical marijuana, but **NO** to medical marijuana at Northland
- Approved Rental Home Registration Ordinance
- Approved Building Inspection Ordinance

NEIGHBORHOODS

- Approved creation of two Neighborhood Enterprise Zones
- Approved creation of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program
- Coordinated Rock the Block Program, a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to provide exterior home improvements to residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Voted in support of the Police Department's Duty to Intervene Policy
- Approval of Rescue Task Force Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department
- Approved high speed pursuit training for Police Department
- Approved re-opening of police station at Northland
- Approved purchase of new vehicles for Fire Department

SENIOR SUPPORT

- Wrote Joint Resolution for Commission on Senior Adults (COSA) to submit with their AARP application to make Southfield a designated "Age Friendly Community"