

THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC. /  
HISTORIC BLACK TOWNS AND  
SETTLEMENTS ALLIANCE INC. /  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE, FOR BLACK BUSINESS, INC.:  
(National Business League, Inc. & National Black Chamber of Commerce)

**2024 COLLABORATION/TRAINING CONFERENCE**

“Mayors, other public officials, and business leaders, training and collaborating to face the challenges in the cities and towns of the world in 2024 and beyond.”

January 24-28, 2024  
(All times indicated are EST)

Location: Eatonville/Orange County/Orlando, FL  
In-Person and Virtual

Host Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
Orlando Downtown, 601 Ivanhoe Street, Orlando, FL

**COLLABORATING PARTNERS (CO- CONVENERS)**

NATIONAL POLICY ALLIANCE/  
AFRICA'S BRAIN BANK, INC. /  
INTERNATIONAL BLACK BROADCASTERS, ASSOCIATION/  
FRIENDS OF THE AFRICAN UNION, INC. /  
A DRUG FREE WORLD (AMERICA'S CHAPTER)/  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE)/  
TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE, MIAMI, FL/  
ASSOCIATION TO PRESERVE THE EATONVILLE COMMUNITY, INC.,  
(THE ZORA FESTIVAL)/  
THE NATIONAL POLICY ALLIANCE OF CANADA/  
AFRICATOWN USA, PRICHARD, ALABAMA/  
MAINSTREAM DEVELOPMENT EDUCATIONAL GROUP, LLC

**CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS FOUNDATION**

Seattle, Washington

“Committed to Building Communities of Hope”

WCM Major Sponsor

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Harlem, NY, USA, & UN Representative

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Former Haitian Diplomat for Haiti  
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The Federation of World Peace and Love

**Honorable William McMurray,**  
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**Honorable H.E. Sheriff Baldeh,**  
WCM Representative, Banjul, The Gambia

**Honorable Augustin Tamba, Mayor,**  
Yaounde, Nat. Pres., United Councils & Cities  
of Cameroon Republic of Cameroon

**Honorable Austin Abraham, Mayor, Gaborone**  
City, Gaborone, Botswana

**Honorable Madame Mayor**  
**Dr. Lisa Sylvester Acogny, Tanzania**  
President/CoFounder refocus Africa

**Honorable Francis Opai Tetteh, Accra, Ghana**



## THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC (The United Nations of Cities)

**HONORABLE JOHNNY FORD, PRESIDENT, SECRETARY GENERAL, CEO**  
**FOUNDER, 1984**  
**Former Mayor, now Councilman**  
**Tuskegee, Alabama, USA**

## WELCOME



Greetings and Happy 2024:

On behalf of the Board, and Membership, of both the WCM and the HB TSA, we greet you in this New Year, 2024, on behalf of the citizens we represent, in the cities and historic Black towns of the world. I am so proud of the fact that I recommended that this 2024 Collaboration-Training Conference actually convene in the historic Black town of Eatonville, "The Town that Freedom Built". To actually be able to meet, and walk upon the hallowed grounds of Eatonville, a place where Zora Neale Hurston, and Dr. Booker T. Washington once walked, is a very inspiring feeling for those of us, who love, and appreciate, our rich African American heritage and history.

So, I join The Honorable Mayor Angie Gardner, and the Eatonville City Council, and the Honorable N.Y. Nathiri, and the Association to Preserve Eatonville, and the people of Eatonville, in welcoming you all, to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual WCM/HB TSA Collaboration/Training Conference. It's great for us to all be able to come "Home" to historic Eatonville, FL, and lift every voice and say,

**"We are One", because "We are Together" again..**

Sincerely,

*Johnny Ford*

The Honorable Johnny Ford  
Former Tuskegee Mayor, now Councilman  
President/CEO/Secretary General/Founder,  
The World Conference of Mayors, Inc.(WCM)  
Founding President/CEO,  
Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Inc. (HB TSA)

WCM/HB TSA World Headquarters (Virtual Office) 1205 Lakeshore Dr, Tuskegee, AL 36083, US

WCM/HB TSA Business Office & Mailing Address, 605 E MLK Highway, Tuskegee, AL 36083

O (334) 226-1125, C (334) 487-0174 Fax (334) 724-9200, E-mail: Repjfi@aol.com

Web Page: [www.worldconferenceofmayors.org](http://www.worldconferenceofmayors.org)

**Honorable John McGowan,**

**CFO/TREASURER**

County Commissioner, Bullock County, AL  
Former Mayor, (1985) Union Springs, AL, USA,  
**Honorable Allister Coward,**  
Executive Director,  
National Policy Alliance (NPA) Canada  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
**Honorable Chief Apostle Lennard Lucas**  
Light City Church  
Former Louisiana Legislator  
New Orleans, LA, USA  
**Honorable Efiiong Eniang**  
President,  
African World Expo, Detroit, MI, USA  
**Honorable Vickie Moore**  
Executive Director,  
Alabama Conference of Black Mayors (ACBM)  
Former Mayor Slocumb, AL, USA  
**Honorable Mayor Jason Ward,**  
Former President,  
AL Conference of Black Mayors,  
Mayor, Lisman, AL, USA  
**Honorable Mayor Henry Peavy**  
Mayor, Franklin, AL, USA  
**Honorable Dr. E. Faye Williams**  
Ambassador/International President  
The Dick Gregory Society, Inc.  
Washington, DC, USA  
**Honorable Dr. Kenneth Harris**  
President/CEO National Business League  
Detroit, MI, USA  
**Honorable Leila Foley-Davis,**  
America's 1<sup>st</sup> Black Woman Mayor (1973)  
Councilwoman, Taft, OK, USA  
**Honorable Kenya Cox**  
400 Years  
of African American History Commission  
Wichita, KS, USA  
**Honorable Bobby Hunter,**  
Former Harlem Globe Trotter,  
Goodwill Ambassador, NY, NY, USA  
**Honorable Mohamed Sillah, Sierra Leone,**  
International Advisor  
**Honorable Reverend Pam Fomunung**  
President, Africa's Brain Bank  
Houston, TX, USA  
**Honorable Charles DeBow, President,**  
National Black Chamber of Commerce,  
Washington D.C. USA  
**Honorable C. Virginia Fields**  
Former City Councilwoman N Y City, USA  
Former Borough President, Manhattan, USA  
And President of (NBLCH) Black Health., USA  
**Honorable Debra Fraser Howze,** Founder  
Choose Healthy Life (CHL), N.Y., NY, USA  
**Honorable Sherman Copelin,**  
Former Speaker Pro Tem, LA State Legislature,  
New Orleans, LA, USA  
**Honorable Teresa Rule,** President  
Blackbird Global Foundation,  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
**Honorable Moses Dekpa Haynes,**  
Mayor of Buchanan, Liberia  
**Honorable Demba Diop,** National Assembly,  
Senegal  
**Honorable Roderick Clark,** Mayor  
Union Springs, AL, USA  
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District Heights, MD USA  
**\*Hon. Mayor Ron Davis,** 2008-2011  
Prichard, AL, USA  
**Hon. Min. of Interior Paul Antoine Bien-Aime,**  
2007-2008 Port of Spain, Haiti,  
**\*Hon. Mayor Ndiawour Toure,** 2006-2007  
Rufisque, Senegal,  
**Hon. Mayor Murchinson Brown,** 2004-06,  
Port of Spain, Trinidad/Tobago Marion, AL USA  
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Saginaw, MI, USA  
**Hon. Mayor Paul Mba Abessole,** 1999-2000  
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**Hon. Samba Faal,** 1998-1999  
Banjul, The Gambia, Africa  
**Hon. Mayor Francis Bertrand,** 1997-1998  
Point Fortin, Trinidad, Tobago  
**\*Hon. Mayor David Humes ,** 1996-1997  
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Director General, Hon. Dr. Chevelle Hall  
Secretariat Hon. Dyann Robinson  
Deputy Secretariat, Hon. Jackie Walker



# TOWN OF EATONVILLE

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*"The Oldest Black Incorporated Municipality in America"*



**WELCOME!**

**OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC AND THE  
HISTORIC BLACK TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS ALLIANCE HB TSA**

**January 27, 2024**

Honorable Mayor Johnny Ford  
WCM/HB TSA  
Tuskegee, AL

The historic Town of Eatonville, FL welcomes The World Conference of Mayors, Inc/Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance on January 27, 2024, as we celebrate "The Reunion."

We look forward to receiving you in our Historic Town on January 27, 2024, at 8:00 am at the Denton Johnson Center, 400 Ruffel Street, Eatonville, FL, to meet, greet, and support one another in the spirit of togetherness. There will be parking available in the main parking lot, and you will have a hot breakfast waiting for you.

After the meeting, the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual ZORA! Festival of the Arts and Humanities will be in full swing on the main street. The stage will be within a 2 to 3-block walking distance from the DJCC, so for those preparing to walk, they should wear comfortable footwear. Once again, it is sure to be a wonderful gathering of delegates.

Have a safe trip!

Blessings,

*Angie Gardner*

Angie Gardner, Mayor



Presented by  
**ASSOCIATION TO PRESERVE THE EATONVILLE COMMUNITY, INC. (P.E.C.)**  
 344 E. Kennedy Blvd. Eatonville, FL 32751  
 E-mail: [ny@preserveeatonville.org](mailto:ny@preserveeatonville.org) ♦ Website: [www.zorafestival.org](http://www.zorafestival.org)  
 Phone: (407) 647-3307 • Fax: (407) 539-2192



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS**

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 Seminole State College of Florida

Eleanor Traylor, Ph.D. (Emerita)  
 Howard Un

January 2024

Hello! Bonjour! Hola! Jambo! As-Salaamu-Alaikum!

On behalf of the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, presenter of the award-winning Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA! Festival), I greet all who are attending the Collaboration Conference led by The World Conference of Mayors, Inc. with a warm welcome!

We are truly grateful to the Honorable Johnny Ford and his leadership team for coinciding their meeting with the 35th Annual ZORA! Festival, taking place January 24 – 28. .

Mayor Ford has labeled the WCM meeting “a Collaboration/Training Conference”, and he and his team have always structured the WCM schedule such that the WCM conferees can enjoy the ambience that surrounds the ZORA! Festival. We are happy that once again we can gather in-person to experience “the best” of the ZORA! Festival and the rich Southern hospitality for which this region is well known.

In friendship, I close,

*N.Y. Nathiri*

N. Y. Nathiri, Executive Director  
 Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community  
 General Manager, ZORA! Festival

**2022 ZORA! Festival Season (January – December)**  
**Kick-off: 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (January 7 – 30)**  
**Focus: Afrofuturism in the Visual Realm**



Office of the  
Orange County Mayor

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, The World Conference of Mayors, Incorporated founded and organized in April 1984, is a non-profit, non-political worldwide conference, comprised of Mayors, Former Mayors, and other elected and appointed local public officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the World Conference of Mayors, Incorporated is a combination of technical assistance, professional government training and education, all of which has been crucial for collaboration and promotion; and

**WHEREAS**, The Annual World Conference of Mayors, Incorporated, and Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Incorporated, Collaboration Conference will be held January 24 through January 28 in Orange County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, The World Conference of Mayors theme *Collaborating as ONE Family, to Conquer the Challenges Facing Our Historic Black Towns and Cities of the World* will provide substantial information as well as access to resources; and

**WHEREAS**, The World Conference of Mayors, Incorporated conference provides an opportunity to build and foster business relationships and expand the global market of the member municipalities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jerry L. Demings, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Orange County Mayor, do hereby proclaim January 24 through January 28, 2024, as

**THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INCORPORATED COLLABORATION  
CONFERENCE WEEK**

in Orange County, Florida, and extend our best wishes for a successful conference to all members and attendees.

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 24th day of January 2024.

**JERRY L. DEMINGS, ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR**



**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

**Travel . . . . Arrival.**

**Preconference Registration:**

**Location: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
Orlando Downtown, 601 Ivanhoe Street, Orlando, FL**

**Thursday, January 25, 2024 (Location: Eatonville)**

**8:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. Registration Continues**

**Location: Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
412 East Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville, FL**

**ALL SESSION 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Location:**

**Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church,  
412 East Kennedy Blvd. Eatonville, FL**

**9:00 a.m. CONFERENCE CONVENING SESSION**

**Call to Order: The Honorable Johnny Ford,**

Former Mayor, now Councilman, Tuskegee, AL  
WCM President/CEO/Founder, and HBTSA Founding President/CEO,

**Greetings on behalf of HBTSA: The Honorable Alberta McCroy, Mayor, Hobson City, AL,**  
President, Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Inc.  
WCM Vice President for Training

**Opening Prayer: The Honorable Samuel Ings**

Former Commissioner & Mayor Pro Tem, Orlando, FL  
Chair, Conference Host Committee  
WCM Vice President for Trust

**Greetings from: The Honorable Angie Gardner,**

Mayor, Eatonville, FL

**Greetings from: The Honorable Jimmie Gardner,**

**WCM Vice President**  
Mayor, Prichard, Alabama

**Greetings from: The Honorable Ed Jones, Grambling LA (Virtual)**

Former President of The WCM  
President, Grambling Economic Development Corporation

**Greetings from: The Honorable Emile Gros Ramond Nakombo, (Virtual)**

Mayor Banqui, Central African Republic  
President, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGAfrica)

**Introduction of the Diplomatic Corp:**

**The Honorable Frank Jackson, Presiding**

WCM VP for International Affairs, **and**

**The Honorable Dr. Abdoulaye Mbengue**, WCM VP for Africa,

Executive Director for the Mayor John Smith Executive

Leadership Institute & the WCM African Office:

**H.E. Bridgette Dagot**

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The United States of America

**H.E. Elise Sia Kanza**

Ambassador

The United Republic of Tanzania to

Washington, DC. The United States of America

**H.E. Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely**

New Future Foundation and

World Conference of Mayors

United Nations Representative

The United States of America

Brooklyn, New York

**H.E. Dr. John Armand**

The Republic of Haiti to The United States of America

Chicago, Illinois

**H.E. Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. (Ret.)**

United Nations Goodwill Peace Ambassador

United States of America

Washington, DC

**10:00 a.m. -11:55 a.m.: OPENING COLLABORATION SESSION**

**Welcome and Prayer: The Honorable Reverend Jerrold Smith**, Church Administrator,  
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

**Greetings: The Honorable Winford Chad McKendrick**, Chair, Governing Board,  
The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (PEC), Inc.

**Greetings: The Honorable Jerry Demings**, Mayor, Orange County, FL

**Greetings: The Honorable Buddy Dyer**, (Reginald McGill, Representative) Mayor, Orlando, FL

**Introductions by The Honorable N.Y. Nathiri**, Eatonville, FL,  
Executive Director,  
**Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc.**  
**(P.E.C.) Zora Festival:**

**Keynote Speaker: Julian Chambliss, Ph.D.**, Michigan State University Talk: "The  
Hungerford Legacy and the History of Black Futures"

**Keynote Speaker: Bruce Janz, Ph.D.**, University of Central Florida Talk: "Where is  
the African Future in Afrofuturism"

**11:55 a.m.: Press Conference and Official Photo**

**12:00 Noon -1:30 p.m.: INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON**  
**Sponsored by TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN MIAMI (TECO)**

**Keynote Speaker: His Excellency, Director General Charles C.Y. Chou**, TECO, Miami, FL

**Presentation by The Honorable Johnny Ford:**  
**2024 WCM Resolution to His Excellency, Director General Charles C.Y. Chou**

**During Lunch: Presentation of Video from Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, in  
Miami, FL.**

**Speaker: The Honorable Reverend Dr. Pam Fomunung**, CEO Africa's Brain Bank:  
"Investment Opportunities in Africa (Ghana)"

**1:30 p.m -4:30 p.m.: Joint WCM HBTSA Board meeting:**  
**Presiding: The Honorable Johnny Ford , President WCM**  
**The Honorable Mayor Alberta McCrory, President, HBTSA**

**Introductions**

**Roll Call**

**Elections**

**Report from Nominating Committee,**  
**The Honorable Willie Calhoun, (Virtual)**

Chair, WCM Nominating Committee,  
Member, WCM, HBTSA Boards



**The Honorable John McGowan,(Virtual)**

Original HBTSA incorporator,  
And WCM 1985 member

**The Honorable Johnny Ford Founder, WCM &HBTSA**

**Reports from WCM and HBTSA Vice Presidents**

**Presentation to the Board: The Honorable Charlie Kruse, Founder & CEO,**  
iNSPIRE.WORLD

**2024 Calendar**

**(WCB/HBTSA) RESOLUTIONS**

**to be considered and passed:**

1. Resolution of Global Support of Foster Care and the work of The Casey Family Foundation
2. Resolution in support of The John Lewis Voting Rights Legislation
3. Resolution in support for The Rosa Parks Federal National Holiday
4. Resolution in support of the Biden “Build Back Better” Infrastructure Legislation
5. Resolution supporting the recognition of, and a call for action to address, Climate Change
6. Resolution issuing a renewed clarion call for an end to any form of racism nationally and globally
7. Resolution in support of taking down Confederate statues representing slavery and supporting the erection of statues representing African American, and indigenous people of color
8. Resolution calling for more support for Historic Black Colleges and Universities and Black towns
9. Resolution in support of Taiwan as a major trading partner
10. Resolution thanking Orange County, Orlando, Eatonville, Zora and citizens of Orange County for hosting our conference.
11. Resolution setting the date for next WCM/HBTSA Memorial Day weekend conference for Tuskegee, AL and Black Wall Street in Tulsa.
12. Resolution in support of the Nation of Ukraine
13. Resolution in support of Women’s right to Choose
14. Resolution in support of fight against gun violence
15. Resolution in support of South Korea as a major trading partner
16. Resolution in support of Relationship between the United States and Cuba
17. Resolution in support of the restoration of Haiti
18. Resolution in support of peace in the Middle East and Ukraine
19. Resolution thanking Eatonville and all of our sponsors for their support of our 2024 WCM/HBTSA Collaboration/Training Conference

**5:00 p.m.: “A DRUG FREE WORLD CELEBRITY BASKETBALL  
GAME & RECEPTION”:**

**Sponsored by Dr. Bernard Fialkoff)**

**(Location: Joe R. Lee Branch, Boys and Girls Club,  
400 Ruffel St B, Eatonville, FL 32751)**

**(The Honorable Bobby Hunter, & Former Harlem Globe Trotters,  
VS. The World Conference of Mayors )**

**5:00 p.m.: RECEPTION (Location: Art And History Museum,  
231 W Packwood Ave. Maitland, FL, 32751**

## **FRIDAY, January 26, 2024**

**7:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.: NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK BUSINESS,  
WCM/HBTSA BREAKFAST AND  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
(Location: Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church,  
412 East Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville, FL, 32751)**

**Guest Speakers:**

**The Honorable Dr. Kenneth Harris,**  
President/CEO, National Business League

**The Honorable Charles DeBow III,**  
President, National Black Chamber of Commerce

**The Honorable Shaquana Teasley,**  
CEO, Agate Solutions, LLC

**SUBJECT: “Black Business Enterprise Scorecard,  
and the Global Support of Black Businesses”**

**10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.: The Honorable Phyllis Dickerson,**  
Executive Director, African American Mayors Association  
Washington, DC

**10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: The Honorable Denise Tyler, Executive Director**  
National Policy Alliance, Inc., Washington, DC

**10:30 a.m. 10:45a.m.: The Honorable Allister Coward,**  
Executive Director, National Policy Alliance, Canada, Inc.

**10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m.: The Honorable Mayor Darrin Canniff,**  
Mayor, Chatham /Kent, Ontario, Canada.  
(First WCM Canadian Mayor, 2023)

**11:00 a.m. -11:15 a.m.: The Honorable Reverend Dr. Pam Fomunung,**  
CEO Africa’s Brain Bank: “Nigerian Convention, 2024”

**11:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.: The Honorable Nicholas Shepard and  
The Honorable Emanuel Campbell, Artificial Intelligence,  
KINDRED OS**

**11:45 a.m. -12:00 p.m. : The Honorable Merin Rajadurai,  
US State Department (Virtual)**

**12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. : LUNCHEON**

**Sponsor: A Time For Truth Foundation  
The Honorable Dr. Bernard Fialkoff, President  
(Luncheon Sponsor)**

**Call to Order: The Honorable Johnny Ford**

**Grace and Greetings: The Honorable Dr. E. Faye Williams,  
President, The Dick Gregory Society, Inc.,  
WCM Board Member**

**Greetings: The Honorable Frank Arlia, CEO/Founder  
Harvest Harmonic Revolutionary Agricultural Technology**

**Keynote Speaker, The Honorable Dr. Bernard Fialkoff.  
Introduced by The Honorable Johnny Ford)**

**1:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.: Location of all sessions:  
Life Center Church, 63 E Kennedy Blvd,  
Eatonville, FL 32751**

**1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE**

**The Honorable Mayor Frank Jackson, Convener  
WCM VP/ International Affairs**

**The Honorable Dr. Monde Muyangwa, Assistant Administrator  
in the Bureau for Africa at USAID  
(U.S. Agency for International Development)**

**The Honorable Dr. Abdoulaye Mbengue, WCM VP for Africa,  
Executive Director for the Mayor John Smith Executive  
Leadership Institute & the WCM African Office**

**The Honorable Emile Gros Ramond Nakombo, (Virtual)  
Mayor Banqui, Central African Republic  
President, United Cities and**

**Local Governments of Africa (UCLGAfrica)**

**The Honorable Hershel Daniels, Chairman, (Virtual)  
Friends of the African Union**

**The Honorable Reverend Pam Fomunung, President,  
Africa's Brain Bank**

**The Honorable Denesye Kirkpatrick, Senior Advisor, (Virtual)  
US Department of State**

**The Honorable Dr. Djibril Diallo President,  
of the African Renaissance**

and Diaspora Network , (Virtual)  
**The Honorable Dr. Weade Boley,**  
University Vice President from Liberia,  
presented by **The Honorable Dr. Robert Ford** (Virtual)

**2:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. : The Honorable William McMurray, Founder, the RAC  
“Gun Safety Lock”**

**3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.: The Honorable Carrie Martin, Program Developer for Fiji  
and South Sudan, representing The Honorable Josefa Cinavilakeba,  
Principal Chief Lau Islands with The Great Council of Chiefs,  
The Republic of Fiji**

**3:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.: The Honorable Dr. John Armand, Global Ambassador  
for Peace and Development for Haiti**

**4:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.: SWEARING IN WCM & HBTSA  
OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS  
By Founder, The Honorable Johnny Ford**

**5:00 p.m.: – CONFERENCE RECEPTION –CITY HALL  
Location: 307 East Kennedy Blvd  
Eatonville, FL 32751**

**Sponsored By TOWN OF EATONVILLE  
Mayor Angie Gardner**

**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

## **BLACK TOWNS ROUNDTABLE**

**7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.: ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST (Hot)  
Sponsored By TOWN OF EATONVILLE  
Mayor Angie Gardner  
(Location: The Denton Johnson Center, 400 Ruffel St.,  
Eatonville, FL 32751)**

**8:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.: Call to Order: The Honorable Johnny Ford, Founding President/CEO,  
Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Inc.**

**Welcome to Eatonville: The Honorable, Angie Gardner,**

Mayor, Eatonville, Florida

**Welcome to the ZORA Festival: The Honorable NY Nathiri,**  
Ex. Director, Zora Festival

**Greetings and Grace: The Honorable Alberta McCrory,**  
Mayor, Hobson City, Alabama, and  
President/Co-Founder,  
Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Inc.

**9:00 a. m.- 9:15 a.m.: Introduction of Speakers:**  
**The Honorable Mayor Alberta McCrory:**

**9:15 a.m.-9:45a.m.: The Honorable Renee Kemp-Roton**

**9:45 a.m.– 10:15 a.m.: The Honorable Jonnitha Clark,** New York Life,  
Grant Manager/Consultant for Hobson City, AL  
with University of Alabama, (Dr. Arturo Menefee),  
South Macon, AL/Birmingham, AL

**The Honorable Arturo Menefee, Ph.D,**  
Office of Economic Development, U of Alabama:  
“Economic Development for Small Towns”.

**10:15 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.: The Honorable Verda H. Olayinka,**  
Master of Professional Studies Cornell University,  
Ithaca, NY

**10:45 am-11:00 a.m.: The Honorable Kendra Fipps,**  
CEO Achieving Higher Results, LLC  
Author, Public Results, Mound Bayou, MS

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: The Honorable Tanya Debose,**  
HB TSA VP for Marketing  
Honorary Mayor, Independence Heights, TX,  
Chair, HB TSA Black Towns Roundtable

**The Honorable Darryl Johnson,**  
HB TSA and WCM, VP for Technology,  
Director/Founder, Mound Bayou Museum,  
Artificial Intelligence

**The Honorable David Allen,**  
**“Greetings from the Town of Prairie View, TX”**  
HB TSA VP for Membership  
Former Mayor, now Council Member, Prairie View, TX

**Closing Remarks: The Honorable Angie Gardner,  
The Honorable NY Nathiri  
The Honorable Johnny Ford**

**12:00 p.m. UNTIL: ZORA OUTDOOR FESTIVAL (Ticketed Event)**

**Sunday, January 28: TRAVEL DAY**

**CONVENTION COORDINATOR**

**The Honorable Johnny Ford  
President/Secretary General/CEO/Founder  
The World Conference of Mayors, Inc., (WCM)  
Founding President/CEO,  
Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, Inc., (HBTSA)**

**FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**WCM/HBTSA Office:  
Honorable Johnny Ford 334-487-0174,  
Honorable Johnnie Harrison:334-492-2767,  
Honorable Jackie Walker: 334-552-0537,  
Honorable Dr. Sandra Ross: 816-255-0303  
e-mail: [repjf@aol.com](mailto:repjf@aol.com)**

**Host Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
Orlando Downtown, 601 Ivanhoe Street, Orlando, FL**

## WCM BOARD

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(ALM, A Co-Founding Organization, 1984)

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Fairmount Heights, MD, USA, President

Maryland Conference of Black Mayors

Honorable Rohey Malick Lowe

Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia

Honorable Rob Neal, President

International Black Broadcasters (IBBA)

Hattiesburg, MS USA

Honorable John Moss,

Native American/Indigenous Peoples,  
Representative, Lawton, OK, USA

Honorable Queen Mother,

Dr. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor,  
Harlem, NY, USA, & UN Representative

Honorable Dr. John Armand

Former Haitian Diplomat for Haiti

Chicago, IL, USA

Honorable Dr. Hong, Tao-Tze, President,

The Federation of World Peace and Love

Honorable William McMurray,

President/Creator, The RAC, Detroit, I, USA

Honorable H.E. Sheriff Baldeh,

WCM Representative, Banjul, The Gambia

Honorable Augustin Tamba, Mayor,

Yaounde, Nat. Pres., United Councils & Cities

of Cameroon Republic of Cameroon

Honorable Austin Abraham, Mayor, Gaborone

City, Gaborone, Botswana

Honorable Madame Mayor

Dr. Lisa Sylvester Acogny, Tanzania

President/CoFounder refocus Africa

Honorable Francis Opai Tetteh, Accra, Ghana



## THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC (The United Nations of Cities)

HONORABLE JOHNNY FORD, PRESIDENT, SECRETARY GENERAL, CEO  
FOUNDER, 1984

Former Mayor, now Councilman  
Tuskegee, Alabama, USA

## HISTORY OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC., (WCM) (The United Nations of Cities)

In April 1984, The Honorable Johnny Ford, then Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama, USA, and President of the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM), convened mayors from the United States, Asia, the African continent, and the Caribbean Islands, in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, and organized The World Conference of Mayors, Inc. (WCM). This historic meeting occurred during the NCBM Annual Meeting, and Ford and other African American mayors throughout the United States enthusiastically welcomed the international mayors to St. Louis.

From the beginning, it was agreed that the NCBM and Union Des Villes Africains (UVA), the organization of African Mayors, would be the two founding organizations. Members of both organizations would automatically become members of the new World Conference of Mayors, Inc. From that organizational meeting, Ford was elected Founding President, along with a Board of Directors, and staff headed by Michelle Kourouma. In the fall of 1984, The World Conference of Mayors was incorporated by Attorney George Howell in the state of Georgia. The WCM first Annual Convention and Board Meeting was convened in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. The World Conference of Mayors' march toward becoming a United Nations of Cities had begun.

This global organization of Mayors from throughout the world is a non - profit, non-partisan organization. The primary objective of The World Conference of Mayors is to stimulate positive and constructive relations between mayors internationally, based on interlocking interests and concerns. Through a network of international municipal associations, mayors and units of local governments, The World Conference of Mayors plans, designs, and manages an international, intergovernmental communication system, through its promotion of seven fundamental goals, its "7 T's": Trust, Trade, Tourism, Technology, Treasury, Training and Twin city programs and services between

WCM/HB TSA World Headquarters (Virtual Office) 1205 Lakeshore Dr, Tuskegee, AL 36083, US

WCM/HB TSA Business Office & Mailing Address, 605 E MLK Highway, Tuskegee, AL 36083

O (334) 226-1125, C (334) 487-0174 Fax (334) 724-9200, E-mail: Repjf@aol.com

Web Page: [www.worldconferenceofmayors.org](http://www.worldconferenceofmayors.org)

### Honorable John McGowan, CFO/TREASURER

County Commissioner, Bullock County, AL

Former Mayor, (1985) Union Springs, AL, USA,

### Honorable Allister Coward,

Executive Director,

National Policy Alliance (NPA) Canada

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

### Honorable Chief Apostle Lennard Lucas

Light City Church

Former Louisiana Legislator

New Orleans, LA, USA

### Honorable Efiang Eniang

President,

African World Expo, Detroit, MI, USA

### Honorable Vickie Moore

Executive Director,

Alabama Conference of Black Mayors (ACBM)

Former Mayor Slocumb, AL, USA

### Honorable Mayor Jason Ward,

Former President,

AL Conference of Black Mayors,

Mayor, Lisman, AL, USA

### Honorable Mayor Henry Peavy

Mayor, Franklin, AL, USA

### Honorable Dr. E. Faye Williams

Ambassador/International President

The Dick Gregory Society, Inc.

Washington, DC, USA

### Honorable Dr. Kenneth Harris

President/CEO National Business League

Detroit, MI, USA

### Honorable Leila Foley-Davis,

America's 1<sup>st</sup> Black Woman Mayor (1973)

Councilwoman, Taft, OK, USA

### Honorable Kenya Cox

400 Years

of African American History Commission

Wichita, KS, USA

### Honorable Bobby Hunter,

Former Harlem Globe Trotter,

Goodwill Ambassador, NY, NY, USA

### Honorable Mohamed Sillah, Sierra Leone,

International Advisor

### Honorable Reverend Pam Fomonung

President, Africa's Brain Bank

Houston, TX, USA

### Honorable Charles DeBow, President,

National Black Chamber of Commerce,

Washington D.C. USA

### Honorable C. Virginia Fields

Former City Councilwoman N Y City, USA

Former Borough President, Manhattan, USA

And President of (NBLC) Black Health., USA

### Honorable Debra Fraser Howze, Founder

Choose Healthy Life (CHL), N Y, NY, USA

### Honorable Sherman Copelin,

Former Speaker Pro Tem, LA State Legislature,

New Orleans, LA, USA

### Honorable Teresa Rule, President

Blackbird Global Foundation,

Anchorage, Alaska, USA

### Honorable Moses Dekpa Haynes,

Mayor of Buchanan, Liberia

### Honorable Demba Diop, National Assembly,

Senegal

### Honorable Roderick Clark, Mayor

Union Springs, AL, USA

### PAST PRESIDENTS

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\*Hon. Mayor Ron Davis, 2008-2011

Prichard, AL, USA

Hon. Min. of Interior Paul Antoine Bien-Aime,

2007-2008 Porta Prince, Haiti,

\*Hon. Mayor Ndiawar Toure, 2006-2007

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Hon. Samba Faal, 1998-1999

Banjul, The Gambia, Africa

Hon. Mayor Francis Bertrand, 1997-1998

Point Fortin, Trinidad, Tobago

\*Hon. Mayor David Humes, 1996-1997

Hayti Heights, MO, USA

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Kingston, Jamaica

Hon. Mayor Mamadou Diop, 1992-1994

Sénégal, Africa,

Hon. Mayor Thomas Barnes, 1991-1992

Gary, IND, USA

Hon. Mayor Kwia Johnson, 1990-1991

Monrovia Liberia, Africa

Hon. Mayor Johnny Ford, 1984-90

Tuskegee, AL

Hon. Mayor Edward Jones, 2016-2022

Grambling, LA, USA

### ADMINISTRATION

Gen. Counsel, Hon. Attorney Fred Gray

Dep. Gen. Counsel, Hon. Christopher Ford

Director General, Hon. Dr. Chevelle Hall

Secretariat Hon. Dyann Robinson

Deputy Secretariat, Hon. Jackie Walker



## HB TSA OFFICERS

2023-2024

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Mayor, Hobson City, AL

#### Vice President, Founder

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Former Mayor, Grambling, LA

President, Grambling

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#### Vice President, Founder

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#### Honorable Darryl Johnson

Former Mayor, Mound Bayou, MS

#### Vice President, Founder

#### Cultural Heritage Tourism

#### Honorable N. Y. Nathiri,

Executive Director

Association to Preserve

the Eatonville Community,

Eatonville, FL

#### Vice President

#### Honorable Angie Gardener

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#### Honorable Phyllis Miller

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#### CFO, Founder

#### Honorable John McGowan

Founder

Commissioner Bullock county, AL

Former Mayor, Union Springs, AL

#### Secretary, Founder

#### Honorable Dyann Robinson

Tuskegee Institute, AL

#### Recording Secretary,

#### Honorable Jackie Walker

Tuskegee, AL

Honorable Johnny Ford  
Founding President/CEO  
Former Mayor-now Councilman,  
Tuskegee, AL

## HISTORY OF THE HISTORIC BLACK TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS ALLIANCE, INC.

By The Honorable Johnny Ford

In 1881, Lewis Adams (Town) and Booker T. Washington (Gown) collaborated to found Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, now Tuskegee University, and Tuskegee Institute, Alabama (A historic Black settlement surrounding the school, created by Dr. Washington, that though never incorporated, was granted its own zip code: 36088). A seed for the collaboration between “Town” and “Gown” was thereby planted in central Alabama. In 1901, at the annual meeting of the National Business League (NBL), Dr. Booker T. Washington called upon the Mayor S. L. Davis, elected in 1899 as the first Mayor of Hobson City Alabama, the first incorporated all Black town in the state of Alabama, to give the national address, calling upon the African American communities to organize their own towns, settlements, and schools. The seed planted in Tuskegee, in 1881, by 1901 had grown into a national “Tree”. By then historic all Black towns had begun to grow. Among them: 1885, Princeville, NC; 1887, Eatonville, FL; 1887 Mound Bayou, MS; 1899, Hobson City, AL; 1901, the community of Grambling, LA, around what would become Grambling University. Now, today there are more than 1,000 historic Black towns and settlements, and more than 100 Historic Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

In the fall of 2012 then Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford, a founder of the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors, and the National Conference of Black Mayors, now the African American Mayors Association, and the founder of The World Conference of Mayors, Inc, was invited by the late Mayor Bruce Mount to visit his town of Eatonville, Florida, which proudly calls itself, “The Town that Freedom Built”. Mayor Mount told Mayor Ford about the influence that Dr. Booker T. Washington had had upon Eatonville, and the founding of their historic Hungerford School. Mayor Mount showed Mayor Ford, the name of Dr. Booker T. Washington proudly displayed, along with a quote from Dr. Washington, inscribed on the permanent gate to the historic town of Eatonville. Both Mayor Ford, and Mayor Mount immediately recognized the relationship between Tuskegee and Eatonville. Mayor Mount also introduced Mayor Ford to N.Y. Nathiri, and the Association to Preserve the History of Eatonville, and to the fact that the late, great, author Zora Neale Hurston, had actually been born in Notasulga, Alabama, near Tuskegee. Ford, Mount, and Nathiri recognized immediately the relationship (the historic trail) between Tuskegee Institute, Alabama (Booker T’s Town), and Eatonville (Zora’s Town).

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

### Honorable Deborah Delgado

City Councilwoman

Hattiesburg, MS

### Honorable Lawrence Haygood,

Mayor, Tuskegee, AL,

HB TSA Founding City

### Honorable Leighton Aldridge

Mayor, Mound Bayou,

HB TSA Founding City

### Honorable Alvin Bradley

Mayor, Grambling, LA

HB TSA Founding City

### Honorable John Moss

Indigenous Community

Lawton, OK

### Honorable Queen Mother,

### Dr. Sandra Ross

Wichita, KS

### Honorable Anita Jackson

Council Lady,

Hobson City, AL

### Honorable Lelia Foley Davis

### First Black Woman US Mayor

City Council Lady,

Taft, OK

### Honorable Frank Jackson

### Historian

Former Mayor,

Prairie View, TX

### Honorable Samuel Ings

Former Commissioner,

Former Mayor Pro Tem

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Former Trustee,

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Nicodemus, KS

### Honorable Queen Mother,

### Dr. Delois Blakely,

Community Mayor,

Harlem, NY

HB TSA,

Ambassador/UN Rep.

### Honorable Willie Calhoun

Former Commissioner,

District Heights, MD



Mayor Ford, returned to Alabama excited, and decided to nurture the “seed” planted by Dr. Booker T. Washington in 1881, and cultivated in 1901 (NBL) by Mayor S. L. Davis of Hobson City, by hosting an organizational meeting of what would become the Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance. He raised the money to cover the cost of the organizational meeting in the spring of 2013 at the Tuskegee Municipal Complex, located in Tuskegee, Alabama, and at the Kellogg Conference Center, located upon the historic campus of Tuskegee University, in Tuskegee Institute Alabama (36088). Mayor Ford invited the following mayors to join Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, in founding an Alliance of Historic Black Towns and Settlements: Eatonville, Florida, Mayor Bruce Mount; Hobson City, Alabama, Mayor Alberta McCrory; Mound Bayou, Mississippi, Mayor Darryl Johnson, and Gramling, Louisiana, Mayor Ed Jones.

The Mayors met. They agreed to organize, and elected Mayor Ford, as the Founding President, and elected Mayor Mount, Mayor McCrory, Mayor Jones, and Mayor Johnson, as co-founders. The Mayors continued to meet, and with the assistance of renown architect, Edward Fly, and Eatonville’s N. Y. Nathiri, developed a work program and a strategic plan. The HBTSA was incorporated in 2014, by The World Conference of Mayors General Counsel, noted civil rights icon, Attorney Fred Gray. Thanks to Ed Fly, the HBTSA, once it was incorporated, received a \$10,000.00 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 2018, Mayor Ford went to New York and met with the Mellon Foundation and paved the way for Dr. Michelle Robinson, HBTSA VP for Educational Matters, to write the grant that resulted in the receipt of a \$300,000.00 grant, administered by Spelman University for the work of the HBTSA. The rest is history.

The seed that Booker T planted in Tuskegee in 1881, and cultivated in 1901 with his National Negro Business League, has not only “branched” into Booker T’s Five Towns, it now serves as a voice for over 1,000 historic towns and settlements across the country. The National Headquarters of the HBTSA is in Tuskegee, AL, (1205 East lakeshore Drive, Tuskegee, AL 36083) This is appropriate because the Black community of Tuskegee was the home base of Booker T. Washington who was responsible for the creation and the survival of so many historically Black towns, cities, and communities

The MISSION of the HBTSA is to work collaboratively to actively “Preserve, Protect and Promote” the heritage, history and culture of these historic places by utilizing their human, environmental, built (engineering, landscape, architecture) arts and humanities resources to nurture economic development and to support an enhanced quality of life for their residents, neighbors and fellow Americans.

# **THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC. (WCM)**

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FOUNDER, 1984**

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Tuskegee, Alabama, USA**

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Executive Director for the  
Mayor John Smith,  
Executive leadership Institute  
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**VICE PRESIDENT, HAITI  
Honorable Jude Edouard Pierre  
Pres. Haitian Nat. Association of Mayors  
Mayor, DeCarrefour, Haiti**  
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Past President NBC-LEO

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**PRESIDENT, WCM MS STATE CHAPTER.**

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Councilman, Grenada, MS, USA

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Former Commissioner,

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**VICE PRESIDENT for  
THE ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES (ALM)**

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Mayor Tuskegee, AL, USA  
(ALM , A Co-Founding Organization, 1984)

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Fairmount Heights, MD , USA, President  
Maryland Conference of Black Mayors

**Honorable Rohey Malick Lowe**  
Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia  
**Honorable Rob Neal, President**  
International Black Broadcasters (IBBA)  
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**Honorable John Moss,**  
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**Honorable Queen Mother,**  
Dr. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor,  
Harlem, NY,USA, & UN Representative

**Honorable Dr. John Armand**  
Former Haitian Diplomat for Haiti  
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The Federation of World Peace and Love

**Honorable William McMurray,** President/Creator, The RAC, Detroit, I, USA

**Honorable H.E. Sheriff Baldeh,**  
WCM Representative, Banjul, The Gambia

**Honorable Augustin Tamba,** Mayor,  
Yaounde, Nat. Pres., United Councils & Cities of Cameroon Republic of Cameroon

**Honorable Austin Abraham,** Mayor, Gaborone City, Gaborone, Botswana

**Honorable Madame Mayor**  
**Dr. Lisa Sylvester Acogny,** Tanzania  
President/CoFounder refocus Africa

**Honorable Francis Opai Tetteh**, Accra, Ghan

**Honorable John McGowan,**  
**CFO/TREASUER**

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Former Mayor, (1985) Union Springs, AL, USA,

**Honorable Allister Coward,**  
Executive Director,  
National Policy Alliance (NPA) Canada  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
**Honorable Chief Apostle Lennard Lucas**  
Light City Church  
Former Louisiana Legislator  
New Orleans, LA, USA

**Honorable Efiong Eniang**  
President,  
African World Expo, Detroit, MI, USA

**Honorable Vickie Moore**  
Executive Director,  
Alabama Conference of Black Mayors (ACBM)  
Former Mayor Slocomb, AL, USA

**Honorable Mayor Jason Ward,**  
Former President,  
AL Conference of Black Mayors,  
Mayor, Lisman, AL, USA

**Honorable Mayor Henry Peavy**  
Mayor, Franklin, AL, USA

**Honorable Dr. E. Faye Williams**  
Ambassador/International President  
The Dick Gregory Society, Inc.  
Washington, DC, USA

**Honorable Dr. Kenneth Harris**  
President/CEO National Business League  
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**Honorable Leila Foley-Davis,**  
America's 1<sup>st</sup> Black Woman Mayor (1973)  
Councilwoman, Taft, OK, USA

**Honorable Kenya Cox**  
400 Years  
of African American History Commission  
Wichita, KS, USA

**Honorable Bobby Hunter,**  
Former Harlem Globe Trotter,  
Goodwill Ambassador, NY, NY, USA

**Honorable Mohamed Sillah, Sierra Leone,**  
International Advisor

**Honorable Reverend Pam Fomunung**  
President, Africa's Brain Bank

Houston, TX, USA

**Honorable Charles DeBow, President,**  
National Black Chamber of Commerce,  
Washington D.C. USA

**Honorable C. Virginia Fields**

Former City Councilwoman N Y City, USA  
Former Borough President, Manhattan, USA  
And President of (NBLCH) Black Health,, USA

**Honorable Debra Fraser Howze,** Founder  
Choose Healthy Life (CHL), N Y, NY, USA

**Honorable Sherman Copelin,**

Former Speaker Pro Tem, LA State Legislature, New Orleans, LA, USA

**Honorable Teresa Rule,** President  
Blackbird Global Foundation,  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA

**Honorable Moses Dekpa Haynes,**  
Mayor of Buchanan, Liberia

**Honorable Demba Diop,** National Assembly,  
Senegal

**Honorable Roderick Clark,** Mayor  
Union Springs, AL, USA



**Honorable Johnny Ford**  
**Founding President/CEO**  
**Former Mayor-now Councilman,**  
**Tuskegee, AL**

**HBTSA OFFICERS**  
**2023-2024**

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**Honorable Albert McCrory**  
Mayor, Hobson City, AL

**Vice President, Founder**  
**Honorable Ed Jones**

Former Mayor, Grambling, LA  
President, Grambling  
Economic Development Corporation

**Vice President, Founder**  
**for Technology**

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## WELCOME FROM THE WCM CONFERENCE MAJOR SPONSOR



### **THE WCM MAJOR SPONSOR, The Casey Family Programs collaborates with The WCM in support of FOSTER CARE for the children of the world.**

William C. Bell became president and chief executive officer of Casey Family Programs in January 2006. He chairs the Executive Team and is ultimately responsible for the vision, mission, strategies and objectives of the foundation.

Dr. Bell earned his Ph.D. in social welfare from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, his Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College School of Social Work, and his bachelor's in biology and behavioral science degree from Delta State University.

#### **Public service, honors and professional affiliations**

Dr. Bell serves on the board of the Delta State University Foundation. He is a founding member of Cities United and serves on its advisory board. Cities United is a national network of mayors working to reduce violence-related deaths of African American males.

A native of Mississippi, Dr. Bell was recognized in 2017 by the Mississippi Senate, House of Representatives and governor with a Senate Concurrent Resolution for his life of service to the nation's children and families. In 2016, Dr. Bell received the Special Contribution to the Judiciary Award from the King County Washington Women Lawyers for his service to children and families, including those in the child welfare system, and for making our judicial system more accessible to all, regardless of economic status. In 2015, Dr. Bell received the Orgullo de la Comunidad (Pride of our Community) Award from the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services.

The Association of Black Foundation Executives selected Dr. Bell as its 2014 James A. Joseph Lecturer for his visionary leadership and stewardship of progressive philanthropic ideals that advance the organization's mission. Dr. Bell was named the 2012 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year by Delta State University and was inducted into its Alumni Hall of Fame and into Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society. The Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps awarded Dr. Bell its 2012 Embracing the Legacy Award for his tireless work to prevent child abuse and neglect and build communities of hope for America's vulnerable children. He was honored in 2010 by New York City's CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for his contributions and lifelong commitment to improving the lives of children in foster care.

Dr. Bell's many other awards and honors include; the 2005 Valeria Bullard Black Administrator of the Year Award from the Black Administrators in Child Welfare; and the 2004 Betsey R. Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Public Child Welfare Administration from the National Association for Public Child Welfare Administrators. In 2003, he was inducted into the Hunter College Alumni Hall of Fame.



**16th President/CEO  
The National Business League (NBL)**

Implementing no-nonsense Ancient African principles towards the pursuit of economic freedom, DR. KENNETH L. HARRIS has spent his distinguished career fervently advocating for Black and indigenosness businesses all around the world. An economist, international scholar, and revered Black business historian, he assumed leadership of the National Business League in 2017, then proceeded to cast a \$20 million lifeline of capital support to Black-owned businesses disrupted by the catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic. Years prior in 2005, he launched the International Detroit Black Expo, Inc., an acclaimed annual showcase that hosted more than 1,000 Black exhibitors from around the globe, reaching 300,000 consumers. As founder, president and CEO of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Harris built one of the largest Black chambers in the nation with more than 36,200 members state-wide. He was also elected to the Detroit Charter Commission by 40,149 votes in a highly contested citywide race featuring 54 candidates in the city of Detroit.

Dr. Harris holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Counseling/Clinical Psychology from Georgia's Clark Atlanta University. He received his Doctor of Humane Letters from Detroit's Lewis College of Business, in addition to an Educational Specialist (EDS) degree from Wayne State University. He earned a dual Ph.D. at Michigan State University in African American and African Studies and Economics with a specialization in Business and Entrepreneurship from the Eli Broad School of Business. Dr. Harris is the 16th National President/CEO of the National Business League, the country's first and largest trade association for Black businesses and professionals, founded by Black business legend Booker T. Washington in 1900, supporting 120,000+ members nationwide, with 125+ Fortune 500 corporate partners and manages local city chapters throughout all 50 states and internationally. The National Business League is headquartered in Washington, D.C., since 1966, with Regional Offices in Atlanta, GA, Detroit, MI and Los Angeles, CA.



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