



## *The Honorable Deborah Figgs Sanders*

City Council Member District 5 ~ Elected in January 2020; term expires January 2, 2024

### **Committee Assignments**

Community Development Block Grant Committee

Co-Sponsored Events Committee

Pinellas Schools Collaborative

Public Service and Infrastructure Committee

Youth Services Committee

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (*alternate*)

### **Professional**

Personal Agenda, LLC, St. Petersburg, FL (President)

YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL (Executive Director, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg Resource Centers)

### **Community**

Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) (Mayor Appointed 2015-2019)

Pinellas County Council for Persons with Disabilities (Pinellas County Commissions Appointed 2018-Current)

CATCH LITE Young Entrepreneurial Training Program, Program Director (2017)

2020 Plan Taskforce Core Team Co-chairman (2014-2016)

2020 Fund Donor Advisor with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay

Wrap Around Collaborative (WAS) Co-Facilitator (2010-Current)

### **Education**

Master of Business Administration, University of Phoenix, 2006

Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems (Data Processing), Magna cum Laude, Florida A&M University, 1989

Associate of Arts in Business Administration, St. Petersburg Junior College, 1986

High School Diploma, Gibbs Senior High School, 1983

### **Personal**

Deborah is married (Daniel), the mother of 3 sons (Kevin-Michael, Marcus, Daniel), and grandmother of 2 beautiful granddaughters (Braelyn and Kamari).



*Keynote Speaker: Gwendolyn D. Reese*

Gwendolyn D. Reese is President of the African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg, FL, Inc. and CEO of Peaten Reese Peaten Consulting, Inc.

She serves on the St. Petersburg Community Planning & Preservation Commission, as a member of the Mayor's Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative travel team. She Co-Chairs *Pinellas Remembers*, a project of the Equal Justice Initiative, working to install a historical marker at the site of one of the lynchings that occurred in Pinellas County and to educate the community to the horrors and long-lasting impact of racial terror lynchings.

**Honors and Awards**

2013 ~ The Congressional Recognition included a U.S. flag which was flown over the United States Capitol on January 13, 2015 and a Statement for Congressional Record which was filed in the Library of Congress.

2015 ~ MLK Leadership Award presented by the National Council of Negro Women and was recognized by Congresswoman Kathy Castor for more than 40 years of community activism and leadership.

2016 ~ Pinellas County Urban Leagues' 2016 "Champions of Justice".

2018 ~ Recipient of the inaugural Peggy Peterman Award presented by the Legacy Group for her weekly column on local African American History in the Weekly Challenger newspaper, in May of that year she received the Founders Tribute from the 2020 Plan and in October 2018 she was the recipient of the Pinellas Opportunity Council's "Presidents Award."

Other projects include: Writing a book of the memories and experiences of people who lived in the Gas Plant neighborhood; completing Phase II of the African American Heritage Trail in Methodist Town; the Timbuktu Center for African and African American Studies which is a free educational experience for school age youth, their parents and teachers in African and African American history and culture; the decolonization of Pinellas County School's curriculum, and the erection of a bronze statue of one of St. Petersburg's pioneers, Elder Jordan.



## *Attorney Michele Rayner - Goolsby*

Attorney Michele Rayner-Goolsby is the founder and principal attorney of Civil Liberty Law and is an award-winning and highly sought-after attorney. Attorney Rayner has been selected as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers and is a Top-Rated AVVO attorney, and has garnered many community awards.

Prior to forming Rayner Robinson, Attorney Rayner honed her legal skills as a criminal defense attorney for the State of Florida. She later continued her career working with two well-established law firms in the Tampa Bay Area and establishing her own successful solo practice.

Attorney Rayner is passionate about her client’s rights and takes that approach in every matter she handles. She ensures their rights are protected as if they were own family. She has successfully represented clients in criminal, family, civil rights and personal injury matters.

Attorney Rayner is committed to serving the Tampa Bay Area, as she is a Clearwater native. She is active in the Pasco County Teen Court, Pinellas County Law Fest and the Clearwater Bar Legal Fair as a volunteer attorney. She also serves on the Florida Bar’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Fred G. Minnis Bar Association and is a founding member of the Women Lawyers of Pasco County. Attorney Rayner is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Attorney Rayner has been featured on Dr. Drew, HLN, CNN, NewsOne, The Huffington Post, The Root, and various national and local radio, television and print media.



*Lenice C. Emanuel*

Lenice C. Emanuel, MLA, has more than 25 years of record leadership in nonprofit management, government, fund-development and community relations.

During Emanuel's career, she has secured and managed more than \$30 million in grants that have served to positively impact a range of social justice issues to include academic, economic, racial, and gender equity.

She is a Climate Reality Leader and part of a corps of advocates and influencers in 152 countries trained by former Vice President Al Gore. She holds certification in Diversity & Inclusion from Cornell University, a Master of Liberal Arts degree in leadership and ethics from Spring Hill College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Auburn University at Montgomery.

Her roles have included serving in Florida as President & CEO of YWCA Tampa Bay, and in Alabama as CEO of YWCA Greater Mobile, Director of Grants and Community Development for the City of Prichard, Project and Division Director of Parental and Community Involvement for the Mobile Area Education Foundation, and Senior Project Director for Success By 6, with the Montgomery YMCA.

Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of the Alabama Institute for Social Justice (AISJ), located in Montgomery, Alabama. AISJ is dedicated to the empowerment of women, people of color, and addressing poverty in marginalized communities through the platform areas of child care advocacy, voter engagement, gender equity, grassroots organizing, environmental justice, and racial healing and reconciliation.

She is dedicated to bringing diverse groups together to engage in meaningful dialogue in an effort to build awareness and solidarity to advance a more just society.



*Hillary Van Dyke*

Hillary Van Dyke graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English Education from Purdue University.

From 2008 to 2012, she worked as a Language Arts teacher in Indiana. In the fall of 2012, she landed in Pinellas County Schools where she continued teaching Language Arts at Azalea Middle School. During this time, she completed a Master's degree in Educational Leadership which inspired her to take on roles outside of the classroom.

After a year as a staff developer at Boca Ciega High School, she became the Senior Professional Development Coordinator for Equity for Pinellas County Schools. Currently, she is serving at the Professional Development Specialist for Equity.

Aside from being an educator, Hillary is a volunteer leader for Outdoor Afro St. Pete and Tampa Bay for five years. She is also the co-founder of the Green Book of Tampa Bay, a directory of Black-owned businesses in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.



*Major Nathaly M. Patterson*

Major Nathaly M. Patterson is a native of St. Petersburg and a 27-year veteran of the St. Petersburg Police Department. She has experience in both the Uniform Services Bureau and the Investigative Services Bureau.

She started her career in 1992 as a police officer in Patrol and moved on to become a field training officer in 1997. In 1999 she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was assigned to the Field Training Unit. Major Patterson was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2000.

Major Patterson transferred to the Investigative Support Section in 2016 where she supervised sworn personnel assigned to the Police Athletic League, the Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit, the Investigative Support Unit, and the Violent Crimes Task Force. In 2019 she was assigned to supervise the newly formed Police Anti-Crime Team. Major Patterson also oversees the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program and the ISB fleet of vehicles.

Major Patterson has attended a variety of professional career development courses. Most notable are the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Senior Leadership Program and Eckerd College Leadership Development Institute. Throughout her professional career, Major Patterson has expanded her relationships within the community. She helped write the Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Human Trafficking Grant that was awarded to the St. Petersburg Police Department in 2019 for the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force. This grant will assist several communities within the Middle District of Florida. Major Patterson represents the Police Department as a Police Athletic League Board Member. The past few years she has coordinated the Department's *Park, Walk, and Joy* shopping event to buy clothing and toys for needy children in the community.

Major Patterson attended Bethune-Cookman College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. She served six years in the United States Navy and two years in the Naval Reserves. She was Honorably Discharged from the Navy in 1991. She is member of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



*Dr. Mendee Ligon*

Doctor Mendee Ligon grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

She attended college in Atlanta, Georgia at Spellman College and completed her B.S. Degree at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She received her dental training at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee receiving a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1979.

Dr. Ligon continued post graduate training and received a certificate in hospital dentistry from a general practice residency completed in 1980.

She is a member of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her leisure interests are reading, traveling, boating and music.



*Dr. Cheryl Wardell*

Dr. Cheryl Wardell completed her undergraduate degree at Fisk University and received her Medical Doctorate from Meharry Medical College.

She completed her residency in General Psychiatry and a fellowship in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

She is originally from Batavia, Illinois which is a western suburb of Chicago and home of National Accelerator Laboratories and the US headquarters of Aldi foods.

Dr. Wardell has been working at the Bay Pines VA for the past eleven years where she supervises nurse practitioners and addresses the needs of veterans who present to the emergency department seeking care.

Dr. Wardell is a hard working member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter.





## *Dr. Nathalia Jeffrey-Fort*

Dr. Jeffrey-Fort has had a love of dentistry since childhood. A native of Queens NY, she attended Brooklyn Technical High School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Howard University. She attended Baltimore College of Dental Surgery Dental School at the University of Maryland, where she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She then completed a one- year general practice residency at Harlem Hospital Center in affiliation with The College of Physician & Surgeons of Columbia University. Dr. Jeffrey-Fort owned and operated a private practice before relocating to St. Petersburg, FL in 1997.

Dr. Jeffrey-Fort married Dr. Kenyon Fort and took time off to raise their children. In 2008, she re-entered the dental field working in corporate dentistry, and with other private practices. Her desire to stay at the cutting edge of the dental field drove her to enroll in the Comprehensive Dentistry Program at University of Florida's Dental School. She took 600 continuing education credits and learned about the latest technologies and techniques.

Dr. Jeffrey-Fort created The Family Dental Boutique, PA in order to bring these modern techniques into an inviting and compassionate environment.

Dr. Jeffrey-Fort strives to make her patients feel cared for, so they feel comfortable coming in for regular check-ups, rather than only visiting the practice when there's a problem. She wants to help her patients raise their "Dental IQ", so they can better understand the importance of dentistry and how it contributes to the health of the entire body.

Dr. Jeffrey-Fort loves to see her patients smile. By educating them on proper dental health and making use of the latest technology, she ensures they will be smiling beautifully for years to come.



*Bobbilynn Hawkins MD*

Bobbilynn Hawkins MD is a graduate of Georgetown University Medical School. She was the sixth woman to become board certified as a Urological Surgeon in the US.

She retired from full time urology at three hospitals in Feb 2019.

Dr. Hawkins has more than 30 years of experience in urological surgery. She has practiced academic medicine as Professor of Urology at the Medical College of Georgia (now Augusta University Hospital) with Martha K. Terris, Chair.

She has served as solo urologist, acting chief for two years, and staff urologist at CNVAMC. She practiced general urology; with a specialization for the last 10 years as neurology and female urology. She spent 8 years covering emergency urology services at MCG, for Level 3 trauma service covering 13 counties.

Her military experience has also served her well in the area of urological trauma. She holds the distinction of serving as a Colonel. Colonel Hawkins served 21 years in the United States Army.

Professor Hawkins discovered a gene as part of the research team at UF Shands and the Medical College of GA.

Dr. Hawkins is member of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Both of her two sisters are also members of AKA.

Her future plan is to provide locum tenens coverage for general urology, and on call services for urological emergencies and consults.



*Dr. Angel Bettis*

Dr. Angel Bettis is an alumna of Xavier University of Louisiana and Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. She has worked in both private and public psychiatric facilities across the country as well as previously serving as a Medical Director for Humana Medicare Advantage Plan.

In 2016, she founded LEGNA Rehabilitative and Support Services Inc. a company that provides patient-centered primary care and preventative health care services, to patients within their home.

In 2018, Dr. Bettis and a partner developed Caribbean Mystique Spa and Wellness Center where they offer an array of aesthetic services and procedures. They decided to expound on their idea and this year they have begun franchising. Their first franchise location will be opening next month in Brandon, Florida with two franchises scheduled to open in South Florida later this year.

Dr. Bettis resides in Tampa with her husband Dr. Timothy and two sons; Geoffrey and Greyson. She is a member of the Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



## *Dr. Marilyn Fudge M.D., M.H.A.*

Dr. Marilyn Fudge is the first African American female OB-GYN in the St. Petersburg community. She is St. Petersburg native and graduate of Lakewood High School. She received undergraduate degrees from the University of Florida and the University of South Florida in Microbiology and Chemistry, respectively.

Dr. Fudge graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1998. She completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Bayfront Medical Center in 2002. In 2012, she earned a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of South Florida's College of Public Health.

In 2002, Dr. Fudge began her career in St. Petersburg in private practice with Dr. George Banks. In 2005, she accepted a position at Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. as an Assistant Medical Director for Women's Services.

In 2012, she returned to Bayfront Medical Center, now known as Bayfront Health St. Petersburg as the Assistant Program Director for the OB-GYN Residency. In 2017, Dr. Fudge became the Program Director for the OB-GYN Residency at Bayfront Health St. Petersburg.

Dr. Fudge is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She serves as an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology oral exam. Dr. Fudge has received many accolades including recognitions for Attending and Teaching Faculty of the year. She enjoys delivering babies, helping women, teaching and watching resident physicians grow and develop into competent and caring physicians.

Dr. Fudge is a member of Bethel Community Baptist Church. She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 32 years and is also a member of the St. Petersburg (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Dr. Fudge participates in many community activities and volunteers her time speaking to young girls, teens and women of all ages.

Dr. Fudge has three children, Destry Jr., a graduate for Florida A&M University; Maiya, a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University and 1st year law student at the University of Florida College of Law; Mikayla, a freshman at Bethune-Cookman University. In addition to being busy with her family, Dr. Fudge enjoys traveling, fictional reading, listening to audio books and watching the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Rays, and Lightning.