

2007 MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN AMERICANS

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

Founder and past chairman of the African American Chamber of Commerce, [A. Bruce Crawley] has worked endlessly in enhancing the economic development of African-American businesses throughout the Delaware Valley. He is also president and a principal owner of Millenium 3 Management, Inc., a full-service advertising, marketing, and public relations firm. Previously, he was president of Crawley Haskins Sloan PR & Advertising. A leader in the Philadelphia hospitality industry, Crawley was co-founder of the Convention Bureau's Multicultural Affairs Congress and one of the founding members of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation. At Independence Blue Cross, Crawley is a board member on the board-level committee on Minority Employment and Contracting. In addition, he serves on the boards at the Haub School of Business at St. Joseph's University, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Technical Assistance Center for Emerging Contractors, the Greater Philadelphia Global, the Global Partnership and Philadelphia 2016.

A pioneer for empowering the inner city of Philadelphia and the people who live there, Kenny Gamble's Universal Companies, a non-profit organization, provides adult education and job training in numerous fields. His organization, Universal Community Homes, provides affordable new and refurbished housing to low and middle income families throughout the inner city areas of Philadelphia. Gamble's organizations have also been a source of employment to many over the years. Two-time Grammy Award winner, Gamble is world renown as a songwriter, producer and singer. Gamble and his music partner Leon Huff are accredited for creating the Sound of Philadelphia. Their most popular songs include, "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "Love Train," "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" and "Me and Mrs. Jones."

[Sam Staten Sr], Business Manager of Laborers International Union of North America Local 332 has exerted his leadership through encouraging his members to volunteer their time towards local Philadelphia politics and organizations. On top of encouraging others, Staten follows his own advice by being highly involved throughout the city. He is the Secretary Treasurer of the Laborers' District Council of Philadelphia & Vicinity, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Building and Construction Health & Welfare Fund, Delegate to the Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council, Board Member of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, Member of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Appeals Board, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Building & Construction Pension Fund, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Education and Training Fund. Previously, Staten was appointed to Governor Ed Rendell's Transition Team and the Board of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. He is also the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Expansion Committee.

FULL TEXT

Philadelphia's 2007 Most Influential African Americans have made tremendous strides in making the city a better place to live and visit for people of all races and religions throughout the city. They've tackled important issues within the areas of education, city politics, tourism, violence, healthcare, funding, business and cleaning up local neighborhoods. Because of their influence, Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the country, offers a great deal of American history, arts, culture, shopping and exquisite cuisine.

Many of the Most Influential African Americans are business owners or leaders within the business industry and have played major roles in building other local business to flourish. These successful people have gone above and

beyond their jobs in volunteering their time to a number of local organizations. Their leadership roles on committees and boards throughout the city have played an intricate part in providing a better future for the people who live in the City of Philadelphia.

As a large part of improving individual lives, the Most Influential African Americans have put education in the forefront of their battles. They understand that great achievements cannot be made without their hard work and dedication. While some people sit back and wait for others to get tasks done, these people take the complete opposite approach by conquering issues right away. This year's Most Influential African Americans are Mayor John F. Street, James Nevels, State Rep. Dwight Evans, Carl Greene, Sandra Dungee Glenn, Sam Staten Sr, Kenneth Gamble, U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, Jerome Mondesire and A. Bruce Crawley.

By Mignon Brooks

A. BRUCE CRAWLEY

Founder, The African American Chamber of Commerce

Founder and past chairman of the African American Chamber of Commerce, A. Bruce Crawley has worked endlessly in enhancing the economic development of African-American businesses throughout the Delaware Valley. He is also president and a principal owner of Millenium 3 Management, Inc., a full-service advertising, marketing, and public relations firm. Previously, he was president of Crawley Haskins Sloan PR & Advertising. A leader in the Philadelphia hospitality industry, Crawley was co-founder of the Convention Bureau's Multicultural Affairs Congress and one of the founding members of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation. At Independence Blue Cross, Crawley is a board member on the board-level committee on Minority Employment and Contracting. In addition, he serves on the boards at the Haub School of Business at St. Joseph's University, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Technical Assistance Center for Emerging Contractors, the Greater Philadelphia Global, the Global Partnership and Philadelphia 2016.

DWIGHT EVANS

State Rep., D-203rd

Dwight Evans, Democratic Appropriations Committee Chairman, has been a member of the House of Representatives since November 1980. As founder of the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation, Evans was able to build a flourishing setup of businesses along Ogontz Avenue. In addition to the business, Evans' corporation was also responsible for planting new trees to create a more appealing atmosphere at Waterview Recreation Center. This past year, Evans also organized Project Fresh Start by partnering up with Tastykake, The Allegheny West Foundation and the Reinvestment Fund in an attempt to build entrepreneurship in the inner-city. Evans has also taken part in "A Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia," a coalition of community leaders and officials working to end youth homicides in Philadelphia by 2016. Finally, his Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative increased the amount of supermarkets in neighborhoods throughout Pennsylvania.

CHAKA FATTAH

U.S. Rep., D-2nd

Representing the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, including sections of Philadelphia and Cheltenham Township, Chaka Fattah is serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. With a mission of educating youth on collegiate opportunities, Fattah created GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) to prepare inner city youth throughout the country for success in college. In the past year, his CORE Philly Scholarship has assisted more than 2,100 high school students in furthering their education at Pennsylvania institutions. In addition, Fattah's The College Retention Program has provided financial assistance in the forms of low interest loans, grants and college work-study programs. Previously, Fattah was voted by Time Magazine as one of the country's top 50 most promising leaders.

KENNETH GAMBLE

Chairman and President Universal Companies

A pioneer for empowering the inner city of Philadelphia and the people who live there, Kenny Gamble's Universal Companies, a non-profit organization, provides adult education and job training in numerous fields. His organization,

Universal Community Homes, provides affordable new and refurbished housing to low and middle income families throughout the inner city areas of Philadelphia. Gamble's organizations have also been a source of employment to many over the years. Two-time Grammy Award winner, Gamble is world renown as a songwriter, producer and singer. Gamble and his music partner Leon Huff are accredited for creating the Sound of Philadelphia. Their most popular songs include, "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "Love Train," "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" and "Me and Mrs. Jones."

SANDRA DUNGEE GLENN

Board Member, School Reform Commission

As one of the five Commissioners of the School Reform Commission, Sandra Dungee Glenn continuously focuses her attention to enhance Philadelphia schools. Previously, Glenn was a Board of Education member for the School District of Philadelphia. She also headed up the development of Pennsylvania Campaign for Public Education and was co-convener. Glenn serves as President of the American Cities Foundation, an organization that focuses on national urban policies and the relationship between cities and the federal government. For her role as Health and Regional Director for Pennsylvania Citizen Action and Associate Director for the Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety, Glen received service awards for excellent service from each organization.

CARL GREENE

Executive Director, Philadelphia Housing Authority

Under Carl Greene's leadership, the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) has spent nearly a billion dollars in replacing outdated high rise public towers with modern, low-rise, state-of-the-art homes.

Greene has been effective in improving the home repair wait time for PHA residents. When he became PHA executive director in 1998, the average wait was 209 days. Today, emergency repairs are made within 24 hours. He also established the first Pre-Apprentice Program, which encourages tenants toward self-sufficiency.

Before joining PHA, Greene was executive director of the Detroit Housing Commission. He also held management positions with housing authorities in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.

JEROME MONDESIRE

President, Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP

As President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Jerry Mondesire has greatly increased the organization's membership since he took office. He plays an active role in healthcare, welfare to work training, police brutality and youth violence within the City of Philadelphia. He is publisher of the Philadelphia Sun, an African American publication within the city. In addition, Mondesire hosts FreedomQuest, a public and political affairs talk show on local cable television.

JAMES NEVELS

Chairman, School Reform Commission

Chairman of the School Reform Commission, James Nevels, has used his expertise in finance to progressively take steps in rescuing the Philadelphia School District's suffering budget. As if that's not enough, he is also the Chairman and Co-Founder of the one of the largest minority owned firms in the United States, The Swarthmore Group, Inc. The firm specializes in independent investment and financial advisory. In April of 2005, President Bush made Nevels Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Nevels also serves on the Board of Directors for Tasty Baking Company and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. As a true community leader, Nevels sits of the Board of Saint Joseph's University, Berea College, the Board of Visitors for Temple University - Fox School of Business and Management, the Board of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Advisory Board of Drexel University, Lebow College of Business, Baiada Center.

SAM STATEN Sr.

Business Manager, Local 332

Sam Staten, Sr., Business Manager of Laborers International Union of North America Local 332 has exerted his leadership through encouraging his members to volunteer their time towards local Philadelphia politics and

organizations. On top of encouraging others, Staten follows his own advice by being highly involved throughout the city. He is the Secretary Treasurer of the Laborers' District Council of Philadelphia & Vicinity, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Building and Construction Health & Welfare Fund, Delegate to the Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council, Board Member of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, Member of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Appeals Board, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Building & Construction Pension Fund, Trustee of the Laborer's District Council Education and Training Fund. Previously, Staten was appointed to Governor Ed Rendell's Transition Team and the Board of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. He is also the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Expansion Committee.

JOHN F. STREET

Mayor, City of Philadelphia

Revitalization throughout the City of Philadelphia has been Mayor John F. Street's major project since he took office in 2000. The pillars of his "Vision for a Better Philadelphia" has made tremendous progress in improving city schools, revamping local neighborhoods, creating safer streets, building the economy and enhancing information technology communication. Most recently, Street led a coalition of mayors to Harrisburg, PA in September to lobby for a crack-down on gun laws and violence. He launched an anti-truancy effort to make sure kids attend school and the Adolescent Violence Reduction Partnership to prevent high risk youth from becoming victims of violence. As former City Council President, Street worked with former Mayor Ed Rendell in taking a \$250 million deficit and turning it into the largest surplus in the city's history.

DETAILS

Subject:	African Americans; Personal profiles; Executives; Legislators; Commissioners; Public officials
Location:	Philadelphia Pennsylvania
People:	Crawley, A Bruce; Evans, Dwight; Fattah, Chaka; Gamble, Kenneth; Glenn, Sandra Dungee
Ethnicity:	African American, Caribbean, African
Publication title:	Philadelphia Tribune; Philadelphia, Pa.
Volume:	6
Issue:	8
Pages:	A14-A25
Number of pages:	12
Publication year:	2007
Publication date:	Jan 7, 2007
Publisher:	Philadelphia Tribune
Place of publication:	Philadelphia, Pa.

Country of publication:	United States, Philadelphia, Pa.
Publication subject:	African American/Caribbean/African, Ethnic Interests
ISSN:	0746956X
Source type:	Newspaper
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	Feature
Document feature:	Photographs
ProQuest document ID:	337840637
Document URL:	https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/2007-most-influential-african-americans/docview/337840637/se-2?accountid=53773
Copyright:	Copyright Philadelphia Tribune Jan 7, 2007
Last updated:	2017-04-22
Database:	U.S. Northeast Newsstream

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