

Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission 2022 End of Year Report

I. Commission's Purpose and Work (about)

GTAAAC's Mission

GTAAAC exists to serve and advocate for African-Americans in the city of Tulsa to create a strong, prosperous, self-sustaining community while demanding systemic change.

GTAAAC's Work

As a commission we remain focused on working toward systemic changes in Housing, Economic Development, Education, Culture and Awareness, Equal Justice & Accountable Policing, and Health & Wellness. We work to make recommendations, draft policy, and/or influence ordinances that ultimately improve social determinants of health and overall outcomes for Tulsa's Black residents. Our most impactful work happens in our monthly committee meetings and requires research, an awareness of the landscape, communication across organizations/sectors, and an idea of which policy/policies on which to focus for social impact. Committee's and focus statements

Education: Focuses on poor student performance, failing schools in addition to increasing strategies to improve opportunities for technical training that will lead to: a living wage, and sustainable, skilled employment positions for African American graduates across industries.

Justice and Accountable Policing: Focuses on policing & judicial reform issues impacted at the local level that contributes to disproportionate incarceration rates among Tulsa's African American population.

Cultural Awareness: Focuses on supporting events and actions that celebrate as well as protect and preserve the African American culture in the greater Tulsa area.

Economic Development: Focuses on improving access for small business owners while increasing opportunities for employment and skills training for African-Americans in the workforce, developing revenue generating businesses & strengthening the tax base in the African-American community.

Housing: This Committee focus is to provide affordable & equitable housing, policies and increasing home ownership for Black Tulsans.

II. Achievements for Year 2022

GTAAAC has new commissioners that will bring GTAAAC closer to its goal. Those new Commissioners are:

Marquess Dennis
David Harris
Anthony Payne
Brian Humphreys
Larissa McNeil
Tony Williams

**GREATER TULSA AREA
AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

a. Community Issues Advocated / Advised /Supported

1. Supported 1921 Tulsa Graves Investigation
2. Supported Greenwood/Kirkpatrick Master planning meetings
3. Supported Standpipe Hill Homebuying Program (17 graduates this year)
4. Supported Theatre North Community Plays
5. Supported Legacy Fest & Juneteenth
6. Advised community on ARPA Funding process
7. Advocated for Black residents of Tulsa to remove barriers from obtaining homeownership
8. Advocated/Supported Creek Freedmen in their court case
9. Advised that TAE0 (Partner Tulsa) deliver reports on implementation of programs

III. Goals and Priorities for 2023

As a commission we will remain focused on working toward systemic changes in Housing, Economic Development, Education, Culture and Awareness, Equal Justice & Accountable Policing. We will work to make recommendations, draft policy, and/or influence ordinances that ultimately improve social determinants of health and overall outcomes for Tulsa's Black residents based on the 2022 Tulsa Equality Indicator Report.

However, during our GTAAAC Retreat in October, we have reimagined the traditional committee structure and just have three committees that cover all committees and issues so we are more impactful and effective.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CULTURE & PROMOTION: This committee will promote/engage African Americans in health, arts and performing art events. (Cultural Committee, Communications Committee and Health Committee)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: This committee will research and propose policies to the Mayor and City Council for issues such as policing, Housing, Economic Development and other issues. (Accountable Policing Committee, Housing Committee, Economic Development Committee and Research Committee)

EDUCATION & SKILL BUILDING: This committee will be responsible for providing education specifically for the betterment of African Americans in Tulsa. First-time homebuyers' education, health education and economic development opportunities and/or education. (Education Committee, Housing Committee, Health Committee and Economic Development Committee)