AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

- 3 year term

- There are specific criteria for this Commission, as follows: (a) Affiliations with significant African American institutions in Asheville and Buncombe County; (b) Diversity within the members by age range, affiliations (local, regional, national), professional expertise, and area of town or county where they reside; and (c) Willingness to be an active participant in meetings, expending an estimated three hours or more a month in Commission business.

DeWayne Barton
Term to expire 07-01-20
Has served 1 term -Eligible & interested in reappointment

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION (3 year term)

CURRENT MEMBERS	TERM EXPIRES	APPOINTED	TERMS	RESIDENT	RACE	HOMEOWNER/RENTER	SEX	AREA	OCCUPATION
CITY APPOINTMENTS									
DeWayne Barton bloveproductions@bellsouth.net	07-01-20	07-25-17 03-10-15	1 unexp	City	AA		M	West	Co Exec Dir - Green Opportunities
Marvin D. Chambers mthedean@aol.com	07-01-21	06-19-18	2	City	AA		M	Central	Semi-Retired
S. Antanette Mosley samosley1@gmail.com	07-01-22	06-11-19 07-26-16	2 1	City	AA	H	F	Central	Dir of Resource Dev - MHO
COUNTY APPOINTMENTS									
Catherine Mitchelle	11/1/21			County					
Sasha Mitchell	11-01-21			County					
Lynne Michelle Smith	11-01-21			County					
COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS									
Georgia M. Shannon georgiamshannon@gmail.com	07-01-16		1	City	AA		F	West	
Michael Hayes	09-01-22		1	City	AA		M		
Brandon Oliver	09-01-22		1						

Chair: Lynn Smith
Council Liaison: Keith Young
Staff: Kimberlee Archie

Council Liaison- Keith Young

African American Heritage Commission - Resource List

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #	DATE SUBMITTED APPLICATION	RESIDENT	HOMEOWNER/RENTER	RACE	SEX	AREA	OCCUPATION	INTEREST IN OTHER BOARDS
Aaron D. Griffin Sr. ajmillsproductions@gmail.com	12-12-19	City	R	B	M	South	Facilitator FatherHood Empowerment	
Robert Elijah Thomas Jr. robthomas52587@gmail.com	12-31-19	City	R	B	M	East	Community Liaison Racial Justice Coalition	
Thomas Ryan thomas@freefall.biz	08-07-20	City	H	W	M	North	Self; Freefall Consulting LLC Medical Device Consultant	

City of Asheville

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Application Form

Applicants are strongly urged to attend several meetings of a board prior to applying

Name of board or commission: African American Heritage

Your name: Aaron D. Griffin Sr. Home Phone #: 828-620-8712

Street address: 37 Rollins Drive City: Arden Zip Code: 28704

Mailing address (if different): P.O. Box 2051 Asheville, NC 28802

Employer: FatherHood Empowerment

Your position: Facilitator Office Phone #: 828-747-5762

Resident of City naitive County Buncombe Race Black * Sex M ✔ F ___ * Age 49 *

Are you a Homeowner or a Renter? * In city limits - ST Renter

Residence location (check one): Central ___ North ___ South ✔ East ___ West ___

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during your service on this board (i.e., property interest, business interest, etc.)? If so, please explain: None

. Potential conflicts of interest do not preclude appointments.

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving **Applicants are encouraged to provide a cover letter and/or a brief resume. Please use additional sheets if necessary.**

Being a naitive of Asheville I have a keen sense of arts and culture our community. Unfortunately over the years as our city has grown a lot of our culture and history has been erased or forgotten. I want to help preserve It. I've attended two HBCU's North Carolina Central and Shaw University studying Public and Business Administration. I'm also a professional musician whose been blessed to be around legends in the music industry. I'm a community Activist who want to create new ideas for the betterment of our people.

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com

Aaron D. Griffin Sr.

Key: df76721e9fe96814d2ae1f402f0fc5678

Signature: _____

Date: 12/12/19

E-Mail: ajmillsproductions@gmail.com

Fax #: _____

Return to:

Sarah Terwilliger, Deputy City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: sterwilliger@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5839
Fax #: 259-5499

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

City of Asheville

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Application Form

Applicants are strongly urged to attend several meetings of a board prior to applying

Name of board or commission: African American Heritage Commission

Your name: Robert Elijah Thomas Jr. Home Phone #: 8289890773

Street address: 2200 kensington place apt f, City: asheville Zip Code: 28803

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Racial Justice Coalition

Your position: Community Liaison Office Phone #: 8289890773

Resident of City asheville County buncombe Race black * Sex M ✔ F ___ * Age 32 *

Are you a Homeowner or a Renter? * Renter

Residence location (check one): Central ___ North ___ South ___ East ✔ West ___

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during your service on this board (i.e., property interest, business interest, etc.)? If so, please explain: none

none. Potential conflicts of interest do not preclude appointments.

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving **Applicants are encouraged to provide a cover letter and/or a brief resume. Please use additional sheets if necessary.**

Robert Elijah Thomas Jr.
2200 Kensington Place apt. f Asheville, N.C. 28803
828-989-0773
Robthomas52587@gmail.com

YWCA Requested Candidate Attributes: Examples of My Attributes
● Lived experience that reflects the mission of the Racial Justice Coalition ● Lived through the "system" and know the areas that need correction, and possess ideas to correct them
● Understand how important racial equity is when it comes to community-police relations
● Strong commitment and connection to communities of color ● Native of Asheville, born and raised here
● Personally know many residents in impoverished neighborhoods in Asheville
● Trusted member of the community with an understanding of the history and legacy of Asheville ● My list of references show that many people of my community and demographic trust me in this future job position

Return to:

Sarah Terwilliger, Deputy City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: sterwilliger@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5839
Fax #: 259-5499

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Robert Elijah Thomas Jr.
Key: df76721e9fe98f4d2ea1f402f0fc5678

Signature: _____

Date: 12-31-2019

E-Mail: robthomas52587@gmail.com

Fax #: _____

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

Robert Elijah Thomas Jr. 2200 Kensington Place apt. f Asheville, N.C. 28803
828-989-0773Robthomas52587@gmail.com YWCA Requested Candidate Attributes: Examples of My Attributes • Lived experience that reflects the mission of the Racial Justice Coalition • Lived through the "system" and know the areas that need correction, and possess ideas to correct them • Understand how important racial equity is when it comes to community-police relations • Strong commitment and connection to communities of color • Native of Asheville, born and raised here • Personally know many residents in impoverished neighborhoods in Asheville • Trusted member of the community with an understanding of the history and legacy of Asheville• My list of references show that many people of my community and demographic trust me in this future job position • Knowledgeable of the social climate before urban renewal, up until what is currently going on now with the biases of the justice system • Local or long-term resident from Asheville or Buncombe County • Grew up and spent my whole life in Asheville, North Carolina, and possess deep familial roots here • Self-starter/self-motivated, ability to prioritize and be transparent in work • Possess a business consulting and editing LLC, with my wife, which we started and produced revenue from, while working full time jobs, and raising a family • Strong work ethic • Currently average about 60 hours a week of work time, being a commercial driver • Invest another 10 hours a week to side business ventures when at home • Experience in community outreach and grassroots organizing • Asheville Native • Ability to connect with others and forge strong relationships • Former incarceration not a barrier for the right candidate • Although formerly incarcerated, I look at it as a strength. How can you fully understand something without experiencing it? • Deep commitment to equity and justice including, but not limited to racial, gender and economic justice • My commitment to all people being treated equally stem from my ambition to create a more equitable environment for our children and generations to come. They own the future. • Understanding of LGBTQIA and its racial intersections, and police relationship to this community • True impartiality equates to everyone being treated equal. Race, religion, gender, sexual preference or any other category shouldn't be allowed to determine how a person is respected. Skills: (ideal candidate will possess these skills or be willing to be mentored to learn them) o Strong interpersonal and facilitation skills o Understand both theoretical and practical concepts, Knowledge-sharing, active listening, emphasis on teamwork and encourage open communication to achieve mutual understanding • Ability to manage crisis communications in conjunction with Racial Justice Coalition's Crisis Lead Team • Exceptionally keen and alert, displays consistent, logical and orderly thinking, solution-based approaches, effectively resolve conflicts internally and externally o Willingness to actively engage with law enforcement to promote RJC's vision and mission o Understand the importance of collaboration, community advocate, ability to be serve as a liaison between the community and law enforcement • Familiarity with word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software• Highly organized, analytical and IT-competent (Proficient in Microsoft and Google Suite)

City of Asheville

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Application Form

Applicants are strongly urged to attend several meetings of a board prior to applying

Name of board or commission: African American Heritage Commission

Your name: Thomas Ryan Home Phone #: 781-929-8059

Street address: 216 Westridge Farm Rd City: Asheville Zip Code: 28806

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Self-employed; Freefall Consulting LLC

Your position: Medical Device Consultant Office Phone #: 781-929-8059

Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race White * Sex M ✔ F ___ * Age 67 *

Are you a Homeowner or a Renter? * Homeowner

Residence location (check one): Central ___ North ✔ South ___ East ___ West ___

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during your service on this board (i.e., property interest, business interest, etc.)? If so, please explain: _____
NO. Potential conflicts of interest do not preclude appointments.

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving **Applicants are encouraged to provide a cover letter and/or a brief resume. Please use additional sheets if necessary.**

Regarding expertise, I bring to the commission the basic skills of teamwork, writing, problem-solving, leadership, and planning and executing projects including reaching out to the community. In addition, I bring the experience of 4 years of teaching in the US Peace Corps in Swaziland (now eSwatini) and Sierra Leone (tropical West Africa). I witnessed first-hand the atrocities and blatant, unapologetic, carefully-planned systemic racism of apartheid, from extensive travelling in South Africa in the 1970s, while teaching in Swaziland. In contrast, I lived and taught in African countries that were under self-rule and thrived under a society with fairness and local government.
EDUCATION: BS in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University; MS in Biomedical Engineering, University of Miami. I worked as an engineer and in management in the medical device field for more than 30 years with large companies (J&J, Smith and Nephew) as well as 5 start-ups, including a recent CEO position. Being in touch with the community (the patients) was very important and drove the projects from the beginning. As a long-time student of African arts and culture, starting with my time and travels to 17 countries in Africa, learning language and culture, I want to continue my efforts with this commission which is entrusted with promoting African American arts, history and culture. I can contribute to the work, planning , and discussions with the community.

Return to:

Sarah Terwilliger, Deputy City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: sterwilliger@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5839
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com Thomas Ryan Key: df76721e0fe08f4d2aa1f402f0fc5676

Date: 8/7/2020

E-Mail: thomas@freefall.biz

Fax #: _____

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

Dear Members of The African American Heritage Commission:

After my undergraduate degree in engineering, I chose to seek an alternative focus for my energy and efforts, thus spending my next four years in Africa as a high school teacher. My Peace Corps Volunteer experience in Swaziland (southern Africa, now eSwatini) and then Sierra Leone (tropical West Africa), began my journey into the appreciation of a variety of African cultures, spread throughout the continent.

I witnessed first-hand the atrocities and blatant, unapologetic, carefully-planned systemic racism of apartheid, from extensive travelling in South Africa in the 1970s, while teaching in Swaziland. Nelson Mandela was on Robben Island during this time. In contrast, I lived and taught in African countries that were under self-rule and thrived under a society with fairness and local government.

Education: BS in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)

MS in Biomedical Engineering from University of Miami (Miami, FL)

I worked as an engineer and in management in the medical device field for more than 30 years with large companies (J&J, Smith and Nephew) as well as 5 start-ups, including a recent CEO position. Being in touch with the community (the patients) was very important and drove all of the projects from the beginning.

The skills I bring are as follows.

From my career and training: Problem solving; project management and implementation

From start-up company experience: "can't" is not a solution; failures lead to new insights and ultimately new paths forward; wearing of many hats; doing projects economically; meeting aggressive timeframes and schedules; meeting and connecting with stakeholders and the public

From CEO experience: Having the ultimate responsibility and accountability; articulating a project to get buy-in from interested parties; leading a team with a variety of skills and experience; convincing an audience to support a project through education and practical arguments

From getting 53 patents: Finding novel solutions that have never been done before

From 110 scientific publications and book chapters: Writing skills; means to clearly articulate a topic to all experience levels

As a long-time student of African arts and culture, starting with my time and travels to 17 countries in Africa, learning language and culture, I want to continue my efforts with this commission which is entrusted with promoting African American arts, history and culture. I believe I can contribute to the work, planning, and discussions with the community.

Best Regards

Thomas Ryan 07AUG 2020

Thomas P. Ryan

thomas@freefall.biz Mobile: (781) 929-8059

WORK HISTORY

FREEFALL BIOMEDICAL CONSULTING Medical Devices; Guided Surgery/Treatment **2009 - present**
Expert witness for patent litigation; Development/Assessment of energy-based technologies

CEO at Theromics Inc., West Bridgewater, MA **2017-2019**
Developing solutions for thermal ablation of tumors.

ARTHROCARE/ SMITH AND NEPHEW, Austin, TX **2011-2018**
Senior Director of Corporate Research reporting to CTO/ Member R&D Leadership Team

CTO at Oxus Medical *Start-up with novel, steerable oxygen sensing catheter.* **2010-2011**

AVEDRO Inc., Waltham, MA **2008-2009**
Start-up creating precise spatial delivery of energy-based, thermal treatment for vision correction.
Vice President and Chief Scientist reporting to CEO

ACTUALITY SYSTEMS Inc. Bedford, MA **2006-2008**
Venture-backed start-up with novel 3-D and 4-D display hardware and image guided interventions.
Vice President reporting to CEO

MICROSULIS AMERICAS, Waltham, MA **2004-2006**
Venture-backed, UK-based start-up using thermal therapy for cancer treatment from university research.
Vice President of R&D, reporting to Gen. Mgr.

ETHICON, INC., Somerville, NJ (Johnson & Johnson) **1999–2004**
A $2 B medical device company, specializing in surgical supplies and energy-based therapy.
Engineering Fellow, reporting to VP

VALLEYLAB, Boulder, CO (Tyco Healthcare/Covidien) **1993–1999**
A $1.5 B innovative medical device company specializing in RF based surgical products.
Engineering Manager, reporting to VP

DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL and THAYER SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING at DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Medical Device Developer for Clinical Patient Use **1985-1993**

STANFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL **1980-1985**
Research Biomedical Engineer

US PEACE CORPS **1975-1979**
Instructor

- Taught Mathematics and Science, History and Geography in Swaziland (Southern Africa) and Sierra Leone (West Africa) for 4 years.

110 Technical Papers and Book Chapters

53 US Patents

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY of MIAMI, MS Biomedical Engineering

UNIVERSITY of DENVER, courses toward Masters' in Management of Technology

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, BS Electrical Engineering