

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

DISTRICT 1

Donald "DC" Barlow

Note: There are two open vacancies for District 1

DISTRICT 2

Rodney Scott has been a resident of Alameda County since 1971. He graduated from Tennyson High School in Hayward and joined the U.S. Marines in 1978. Although he has been incarcerated and returned home on three different occasions and struggled with addiction, he attended Chabot College and is currently a student at California State University, East Bay, expecting to earn his B.A. Degree in Sociology in 2019. He also serves as the President of the Level V Student Club at California State University, East Bay. Rodney graduated from the Substance Abuse program at Merritt College under Doctor William Love; his State license is pending. He is the director/founder of his own company, a non-profit, LEVEL V RELOADED and his goal is to assist formerly incarcerated individuals with entering and graduating from institutions of higher education. Rodney has learned that the key to breaking the recidivism rate is to educate.

Kamarlo Spooner, a native Oaklander, has spent over 39 months incarcerated. Following his release in 2007, Mr. Spooner returned to Peralta Colleges to obtain four different associate degrees. Currently he is a garbage truck driver and an advocate for at risk individuals. Mr. Spooner is a motivational and transformational speaker who volunteers his time by returning to the same prison, Sierra Conservation Center, which he was released from to inspire and motivate inmates. Mr. Spooner also volunteers his time by speaking to the participants of the Oakland Midnight Basketball League encouraging them to stay clear of anti-social pursuits.

Note: There is one open vacancy for District 2

DISTRICT 3

Victor Flores was born and raised in Oakland where he was arrested at the age of 17 which resulted in an eight-year prison sentence. While in prison, he took the initiative to become the official liaison between the prisoners and Correction Officers. After completing his GED, he worked as a tutor within one of his housing units and enrolled in community college courses. Once released, he returned to Oakland and began to work at UPS where he was immediately hired as a supervisor. Shortly after, he also began to volunteer for Catholic Charities of the East Bay as a legal intern. While he was at Catholic Charities of the East Bay, he began taking and writing declarations from youths who came to the United States as unaccompanied minors. These children were fleeing from violence in their home countries. Victor was able to connect with these youths who had also experienced trauma from violence during their developing years, as he did, growing up in East Oakland. Victor moved on from volunteering at Catholic Charities of the East Bay to working at City Councilmember Abel Guillen's office as a constituent liaison, as well as continuing his education.

Lou Rigali, a Bostonian by birth, a chemist by training, and a sales and marketing product manager by choice. Lou started his first business of distributing scientific equipment after approximately 6 years of working in a corporate environment. The distribution business expanded to cover all the Western States with a small staff of about 15-16 people. In 1985, there was an opportunity to develop a relatively new technology for semiconductor manufacturing. Fourteen years later, when that company, March Instrument, grew to over 60 people, Lou was ready to do something new. In 2000 Lou opened an art gallery in Oakland, and a wholesale gift and card publishing business, Quantity Postcards, and Backyard Oaks. In 2016, Lou became involved as an advocate for homelessness. He serves on three local advocacy groups. For 3-6 months he was working with Impact Justice on a joint program regarding housing for men, women and families in reentry programs. Topics such as jobs, addiction and prejudice were reviewed as challenges that needed to be addressed to ensure stable housing.

Note: There is one open vacancy for District 3

DISTRICT 4

Barbara Quintero

Note: There are two open vacancies for District 4

DISTRICT 5

Raymond Banks was born and raised in West Philadelphia and has been in the Bay Area since 1990. A previously incarcerated, homeless, Navy veteran, he graduated in 2008 with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from UC Berkeley. He assisted with the pilot of Cal's first cross-enrollment program with dedicated academic support for veteran and formerly incarcerated community college students in spring 2015. The program, designed to "Demystify Cal By Experiencing Cal," has now become the Malcolm X Next Scholars Program, organized by Urban Scholars at Berkeley, a student-initiated service group sponsored by the Associated Students of University of California (ASUC), in which he serves as President Emeritus. Currently, Mr. Banks tutors Cal athletes in Philosophy and chairs the Veterans Committee for the Oakland Branch of the NAACP. He envisages a seamless continuum of services for the re-entry population which begins prior to release and continues until graduation from a four-year institution, or until one has become gainfully employed.

Tanasha Stevens is a single mother of three children (boys) and primary focus is her children, which wasn't always the case. She grew up in the heart of Oakland, California and thought the only way to survive was to sell drugs. Tanasha ended up going to prison six times and serving approximately 10 years total, until she realized that something wasn't working. After being released in 2003, she decided to change her life. She has finished school and received high school diploma and matriculated to the College of Alameda to obtain her AA degree in African-American History. She graduated with a 3.975 GPA and got accepted into UC Berkeley. She proved to herself and her children that it doesn't matter where you start, it matters where you finish. While at the College of Alameda, Tanasha became president of the New Dream program designed to help formerly incarcerated people get into college. She has devoted her life to becoming a pillar of her community and helping those that are poverty stricken, incarcerated, and those who are trying to find their place in life.

Note: There is one open vacancy for District 5