Speakers and Information about the Speakers

Moderator:

Arnita Gadson received a Master of Arts in Business Management and Human Resources from Webster University and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from KY State University. She is currently Kentucky and Louisville NAACP EJ Chair and the Executive Director of the West Jefferson County Community Task Force, a 501(c)3 EJ organization since 2003. She is also retired as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission and the EJ Director at the University of Louisville.

Speaker 1:

Harold Mitchell Jr. is a member of the Evergreen Advisory Board. He founded the ReGenesis project in 1997 in response to a spate of respiratory illnesses in neighborhoods near waste and toxic chemical facilities in his community. Today, the project has successfully leveraged millions of public and private dollars in funds towards site clean ups, economic development, affordable housing and healthcare for communities affected by environmental racism. Mitchell served as a representative in the South Carolina Legislature for 13 years. He received the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Regional Legislator of the Year Award, 2015. He is a lifelong resident of Spartansburg, South Carolina.

Speaker 2:

Omar Muhammad is from Augusta, GA where he earned a Biology degree from Augusta State University. He currently works for the Department of Natural Resources as a Fisheries Biologist. Omar has worked as a community advocate and activist since 2007 as a volunteer for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) and currently serves as its Executive Director. Omar completed the EPA’s EJ Academy and was selected Valedictorian for the inaugural class. Omar is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Community and Urban Planning with a policy focus at the College of Charleston.
Panelist 1:

Councilman Michael A. Brown is the son of the late Herman Brown and Edith Smalls Brown. He grew up on Union Heights, attended the public school of Charleston County and a graduated of Chicora High School. He attended Devry Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia and received a diploma in Electronic Technology in 1975.

Michael was employed by Sears and Roebuck as an Electronic Repair Technician. In 2004 he retired from BP-Amoco as an Instrument and Electrical Planner after 25 years of service. Councilman Brown has served on the North Charleston City Councilman District 10 from 2007- present, is a Board Member: Charleston County Human Services Commission, a member of the Mary Ford Elementary School Improvement Council and Royal Missionary Baptist Church. Councilman Brown is an advisory board member for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities. Michael is married to the former Evelyn Singleton and they have two sons Michael II and Torre.

Panelist 2:

Keisha Long is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She is an advocate for vulnerable communities and is responsible for helping environmental justice communities build capacity, identify resources, and establish collaborative partnerships.

Keisha has been with DHEC for over 20 years. Previously, Keisha worked as a DHEC Project Manager in the Superfund program and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program (RCRA). Keisha holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, is an active Toastmaster, and is a co-Chair on the advisory board of the ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council).
Panelist 3:

**VAREVA HARRIS** is the vice president for enrollment management at Benedict College. She has held a number of administrative roles at Benedict in the past. Harris holds a bachelor’s degree from Benedict, a master’s from Columbia College and a Doctor of Management degree in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix.
Navigating and Getting to Know Your Local, State and Federal Government Agencies

July 29, 2021
Welcome

Michelle King
Louisville Air Pollution Control District
Executive Administrator
and Director of Program Planning
Moderator

Arnita Gadson
West Jefferson County Task Force, Executive Director
KY and Louisville NAACP Environmental, Climate and Justice, Chair
Overview of Experiences Navigating Local, State, and Federal Government Agencies

Harold Mitchell
Regenesis
Executive Director
Overview of LAMC and Port Project

Omar Muhammad
Low Country Alliance for Model Communities
Executive Director
Navigating Local, State, and Federal Agencies Workshop

July 29th, 2021

Omar Muhammad (LAMC)
Community Environmental Challenges

- Intermodal Container Transfer Facility
- South Carolina Port Terminal
- Train Tracks
- Port Access Road
- Interstate 26
- Ashley River
LAMC Organization’s Purpose and Work

**Our purpose:** is to build healthy families by creating pathways to equal opportunities

**Our work:** is intentional and transformative

**Our focus:** is **7 : 4**

7 Communities: 4 Core Areas of Focus

- Accabee
- Chicora/Cherokee
- Five Mile
- Liberty Hill
- Union Heights
- Howard Heights
- Windsor Place

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<th>7 Communities</th>
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<td>Accabee</td>
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Community Groups are in flux trying to answer these questions

**WHAT IMPACT CAN WE HAVE IN THE COMMUNITY?**

How do we meet the changing needs of community?

**What is our purpose?**

**What is our vision for the future?**

**What is our role in the community?**

**What are our assets and challenges?**

How does our work further social justice?
Community Problem Solving Model

1. Issue Identification, Community Vision & Strategic Goal Setting
2. Community Capacity-Building & Leadership Development
3. Consensus Building & Dispute Resolution
4. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships & Leveraging of Resources
5. Constructive Engagement by Relevant Stakeholders
6. Sound Management & Implementation
7. Evaluation, Lessons Learned & Replication of Best Practices

Elements of the Collaborative Problem-Solving Model
Environmental Leadership Program
LEAP – EPA and DHEC
EJ Academy
LAMC Stakeholder Partnership
Community Partners and Stakeholders

Community Associations and Councils

- Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina
- South Carolina Community Loan Fund
- Community First Land Trust
- Metanoia
- Lowcountry Development Trust, LLC
- Moving Forward Network
- South Carolina Ports
- USC An Climate Action Network
- City of North Charleston
Affordable Housing Revolving Loan

To date, our housing partnership has acquired 30 properties for affordable housing. We have funded the construction of 6 homes for home ownership, 5 rental homes to date.

LAMC Area Community Recreation Center

LAMC negotiated with Palmetto Railways for the replacement of Sterrett Hall. The new recreational center will be constructed on the Old Tank Farm (City of North Charleston is donating the land and will operate the facility).

The construction cost is 3 million dollars from the mitigation agreement and an additional 1 million dollars in gap funding.

Summer Transportation Institute

Residents of the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities and Rosemont are offered various opportunities to participate in educational and employment initiatives geared toward the transportation industry at Benedict College.

Citizen Science an Community Training

Citizen Science-based initiatives have enabled communities impacted by environmental justice to collect and use data to address local environmental and health concerns.
Community-based Research using Citizen Science
Air Monitoring
PURPOSE

Examine how land use policy and practices in North Charleston are contributing to or relieving community's risk of exposure to environmental hazards associated with land use types that are incompatible with residential such as industrial and heavy commercial.

METHODS

1) Analysis of zoning policy and classification of current zoning types and land use categories by "impact factor," (impact defined as adverse environmental effects)

2) Spatial analysis using ArcMap v10.4 to assess:
   - Distribution of land use types
   - Patterns in land use decisions over time
   - Areas of heightened risk of exposure

KEY FINDINGS

The neighborhoods at highest risk of exposure to adverse environmental effects are at the Southern end of the study area and include: Accabee, Five Mile, Howard Heights, Windsor Place and Union Heights.

Contemporary land use practices and decisions are exacerbating pre-existing disparities evidenced by:

- Amount of land use types incompatible with residential are increasing within and surrounding the subject neighborhoods and heightening their vulnerability to effects of environmental hazards, air pollution, urban decay, man-made and natural disasters.
- Neighborhoods in the northeast corner of the study area that skew more white and affluent are seeing a reduction in impact as a result of the effects of protective overlay districts and down-zoning.

STUDY AREA

Seven focus neighborhoods of the Charleston Community Research to Action Board (CCRAB) in North Charleston, SC.
Government Agencies Panel

Councilman Michael Brown, Keisha Long, Vareva Harris
Keisha Long
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Office of Environmental Affairs
IDENTIFY RESOURCES FOR EJ COMMUNITIES

ADVOCATE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

PROMOTE MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HELP BUILD CAPACITY IN EJ COMMUNITIES
LEAP
LEADERS in ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PILOTS

W.A. Perry Middle School
in partnership with
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
presents a
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
by Prisma Health

GIVEAWAYS!
- swag bags
- masks
- hand sanitizer
- educational materials
- prizes
- and more!

Saturday, May 22, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
W.A. Perry Middle School Parking Lot
2600 Barhamville Rd | Columbia, SC 29204

101.1 The Beat
broadcasting LIVE from
10 AM - 12 PM!

First dose | Drive thru | PFizer vaccine | 12+ eligible

EJ STRONG
Strengthening Communities for Disaster Risk Reduction, Response & Recovery in South Carolina
Keisha D. Long
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-898-0774
803-312-1469
longkd@dhec.sc.gov
We want to hear from you!