

Rev. Ulysses Wingo Joins CAO of WNY's Senior Executive Team

The Community Action Organization of Western New York is pleased to announce the appointment of Reverend Ulysses Wingo as a senior executive. With his extensive background as a professor, pastor, and community leader, Reverend Wingo brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the organization. Reverend Wingo's prior experience as a community pastor and member of the Buffalo City Council has provided him with invaluable experience in community outreach and advocacy. His unique perspective and understanding of the needs of the commu-

nity will be a valuable asset to the CAO of WNY as it continues to improve its internal operations and better serve its constituents. In his new role, Reverend Wingo will oversee the agency's operations, outreach, and development. The CAO of WNY is thrilled to welcome him to the team and is grateful for his commitment to serving our community in this new capacity. This appointment represents the organization's continued commitment to providing effective and dedicated leadership to the communities it serves.



Thomas Beauford, Jr.



Dr. LaVonne Ansari

An Intentional Future for the East Side: Re-Building A Stronger, More Inclusive Buffalo After Racial Injustice

By Thomas Beauford, Jr. and Dr. LaVonne Ansari

As we look back on all that the East Side community and Buffalo have gone through in the past year and consider what might be done to help, we are first and foremost grateful to all the community members who have shared their unique and individual experiences of being affected by 5/14. To serve as co-chairs of the Buffalo Together Community Response Fund (BTCRF) and be part of building an intentional way forward for the East Side is an honor and privilege that we don't take lightly. We, along with the BTCRF steering committee, made up of leaders with deep and personal connections to the East Side, are committed to listening and centering your voices as we continue our work.

If 5/14 did anything, it gave us a sense of urgency, but also showed us we need to be deliberate in our actions – because the forces pushing against us are deliberate and intentional, and they have a long history of structural institutional advantage on their side. The work ahead is not simple, and the BTCRF is focused on a long-term solution.

But it is clear that we can't just spend our way out of this situation. We cannot keep throwing money at the same infrastructure with the same roadblocks and the same mindset and expect a different outcome for the East Side. With that in mind, we sought additional funding outside the BTCRF to hire Rainbow Research, a Black-led national organization with ties to Buffalo, to lead a process that is rooted in listening and learning first. The Rainbow Research team has been on the ground, walking the East Side, meeting with residents and leaders over the past few months. At the end of 2023, they will deliver to us a community investment strategy that will not only shape how the BTCRF funds may be used, but will build on current community assets and lay out best practices to take our community from surviving to thriving.

Know this, too – the thriving East Side we envision cannot exist unless long-time residents are part of future growth and development. We must continue to work together in this historic moment, to build upon the work that has come before us and that frontline nonprofits are doing still, every day, to remove structural barriers and allow our community to flourish. On behalf of the Buffalo Together Community Response Fund, we are dedicated to playing our part in building a bright future for the East Side and a community-driven approach to creating lasting change.

LaVonne Ansari, Ph.D. Thomas Beauford, Jr.



Frank E. Merriweather, III

Eye On History: "Honor and Respect to Frank Merriweather, III"

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Cedric Holloway Pledges to Serve a Full Term If Elected Ellicott District Council Member

Calls on His Opponents In the Race to Join Him

Cedric Holloway, who is currently campaigning for the Ellicott District council seat, today pledged to serve a full term if elected, and he called on his opponents to join him in committing not to seek other offices if they are successful in the race.

"I am campaigning to represent the residents of the Ellicott District and have no plans to run for another po-

