

Name: Rawls, Ronald

Address: 8007 SW 52nd Ln, Gainesville/FL, 32608

Email: ronrawlsjr@gmail.com

Board Name: Equity Advisory Council

Primary Phone:

352 222-3554

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

Pastor of Greater Bethel AME Church / 10 Who Make A Difference
(<https://www.staugustine.com/story/news/local/2018/01/01/10-who-make-difference-rev-ron-rawls/16285178007/>)

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

None

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

My contributions to the board would be honest and well informed perspectives.

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Do you currently hold any publicly elected office in the State of Florida?:

No

Employer :

Greater Bethel AME Church

Occupation:

Pastor

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :

No

Time of Submission: 10/11/23 10:28:24 AM

Attachments:

- Ron Rawls Bio Narrative 07.18.21.pdf

BIOGRAPHY

The Reverend Ron Rawls is the pastor of Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Gainesville, Florida, the same city where he was born and raised. He graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion. Reverend Rawls was ordained as an itinerant deacon in 1997 and an itinerant elder in 1999. He received his first pastoral appointment in 1999 and since, has served congregations in Chiefland, Trenton, Jasper, and St. Augustine, Florida.

As an itinerant elder, Reverend Rawls is fully aware that social justice is in the DNA of AMEs and he continues to exemplify the importance of the church being positioned in the forefront of the pursuit of justice. He is widely known for his intense and aggressive activism in St. Augustine, St. John's County and the State of Florida. He is among a small group of civil rights leaders who challenged the city of St. Augustine and won. He follows in the footsteps of Presiding Elder F. D. Richardson, Dr. Robert B. Hayling and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in their pursuit of justice.

Being mentored by Dr. Robert B. Hayling, the father of the Civil Rights movement in St. Augustine, is an experience that Reverend Rawls values and relies on in expanding his work in the ministry. He approaches ministry from a three-legged perspective believing that our ancestors are pushing us forward by: (1) Confronting (2) Educating and (3) Building. He envisions us being the head and not the tail, being above and not beneath and having the discipline to leave an inheritance for our children's children and a legacy for our descendants.

Reverend Rawls is married to the Honorable Meshon T. Rawls, County Court Judge in Alachua County. They have three children and five grandchildren who completely occupy his heart. GranFriday is his brand.