



Leroy Jones

Mr. Leroy Jones was born in Savannah, Georgia. At the early age of nine his family moved to Miami Dade County, Florida. After arrival in Miami Dade County, Leroy attended Fredrick Douglas Elementary School in Overtown. The new environment in which Leroy found himself was not conducive to encouraging and promoting the kind of productive life a young person would normally pursue. Like many of his peers and the social prospects of that time Leroy became attracted to limited goals and hopes. He dropped out of school and seemingly took the road to no where.

To Mr. Jones' credit, he paid his debt to society, and above all he basically never lost the inner urge to prove to himself, to his family and

to others he was somebody. As a seasoned adult, Leroy decided to return to school and completed his high school credits and beyond. He graduated from Dr. D. A. Dorsey Education Center. Leroy takes great pride in saying and putting into practice that he earned his "Master's Degree" from the streets of Overtown, Liberty City, Larchmont Project and life. While his formal education has helped, his life experiences have taught him the value of humility, human understanding, and helping others.

Despite the many obstacles he faced, Mr. Jones never lost sight of his goal and deepened his craving to become a redemptive and positive force within his community. As a result, Mr. Jones has gained more than fifteen years of experience in providing aide to others. He has devoted his time, knowledge, and business acumen in giving technical assistance to the small business community throughout Miami Dade County. To make his dream a reality, Leroy created and organized the Miami-Dade County Mom and Pop Small Business Program, the City of Miami Ex-offender Revolving Loan Program, currently known as the Micro Enterprise Business Assistance Grant Program. As well as manage the Employ Miami Dade Initiative Program for the Mayor of Miami Dade County. One of Mr. Jones' most successful achievements is the creation of the non-profit organization Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA) Incorporation. This Association has provided business workshops, training on setting up a business, assistance in obtaining a local business tax license, training in preparing grants and other financial assistance, and general operations of a successful business. Over the years small businesses have received more than \$24,000,000 in grants and loans thanks to Mr. Leroy Jones.

Mr. Jones is extremely proud of his latest venture, the creation of the Liberty City Public Housing Small Business Pilot Project. This project has empowered residence of the Liberty City Projects to start their own franchise. We believe it is the first project of its kind in the history of the United States.

In 1998 Mr. Jones received the distinctive Medal of Merit Award from Miami-Dade County for his service to the residents of the county and in 2010 he received the African American Achievers Award from JM Family for entrepreneur.

Presently, Mr. Leroy Jones is the Executive Director of Neighbors and Neighbors Association Incorporated, the Executive Director of The Black Economic Development Coalition (Tools for Change) and the Lead Organizer of the Circle of Brotherhood.