

## **Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones Bio**

In November of 2005, Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones made history by becoming the first Black woman to be elected to the City of Miami Commission in forty years. Representing a new generation of leaders, Commissioner Spence-Jones' dedication to reclaiming and rebuilding her community is deeply rooted in placing public service over personal gain. Since being elected, the commissioner has worked tirelessly to restore Miami's most diverse and neglected neighborhoods in District 5, which include: Model City, Overtown, Spring Garden, Little Haiti/ Historic Lemon City, Wynwood, Buena Vista East and West, Buena Vista Heights and Oakland Grove. She is committed to making her community a place where one would be proud to live, work, play and learn.

Some of her priorities include: developing real affordable rental and homeownership projects for seniors, low-income and working families; providing support to small businesses, mentoring and transitioning homeless women into housing and rental units, initiating streetscape projects to beautify neighborhoods, upgrading our parks and green spaces and forming a collaborative effort with local businesses to train and employ District 5 residents.

Her notable accomplishments include among others: Street improvements on NW 3rd Avenue that has contributed to the revitalization of the historic business district in Overtown, turning the Liberty City Community Revitalization Trust around to focus on affordable housing opportunities and economic development in Liberty City, the opening of the first state of the art Soccer Park and Cultural Complex in Little Haiti and the Grand Opening of the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum.

The Commissioner serves as the chairwomen of the Southeast Overtown/Park West CRA and is also a member of the Performing Arts Center Trust Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Miami, Commissioner Spence-Jones attended Lorah Park Elementary in Brownsville and later graduated from North Miami High School. She later headed to North Florida to attend Tallahassee Community College.

Commissioner Spence-Jones is especially proud of being a wife and mother to her two sons Nathaniel Jr. and Noah Jones. Commissioner Spence-Jones and her husband Nathaniel Jones live in Liberty City where they attend Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.