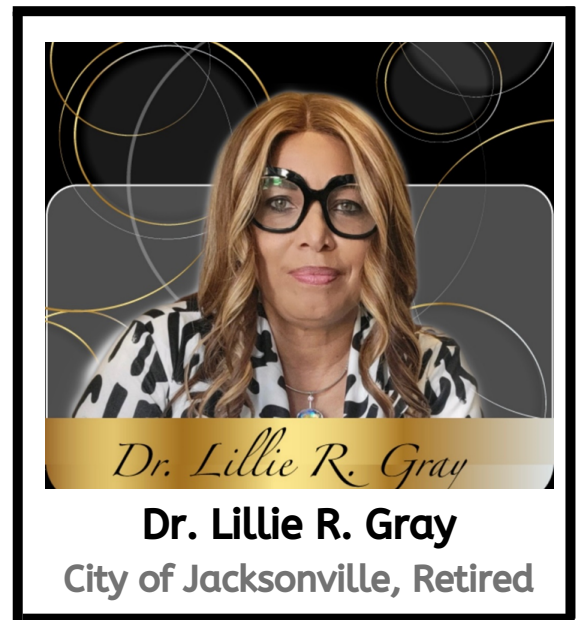


Dr. Lillie Gray recently retired after serving for more than 30 years in public service at the state, county, and local levels. She is the former Director of Community Engagement where she oversaw the federally funded Community Development Block Grant program and other economic mobility programs that were targeted to low wealth communities, individuals, and families. Her background includes experience in Community Development, Code Enforcement, Affordable Housing, Office of Livable Neighborhoods, Economic Development, Small Business Loans, Opportunity Zones, and Grants Management to include CDBG, HOME, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, North Carolina Department of Commerce, North



Carolina Rural Center, and CDBG-R Hazard Mitigation grants. During Hurricanes Fran and Bertha, she oversaw her largest individual grant of \$2.9 million in disaster recovery funding.

Under her visionary leadership with the City of Jacksonville, NC she eliminated slum and blight conditions through demolition of over 150 dilapidated structures; co-developed the Downtown Mural Overlay district; designed and implemented the Downtown Housing Initiative which received both the NCHFA Housing Award and the National Community Development Association's John A. Sasso Award. She is responsible for designing and launching the One City, Our City, My City program to promote diversity and inclusion in the City of Jacksonville. This program received a 2nd place City Cultural Diversity Award from the National League of Cities. Finally, among her proudest accomplishments is being the catalyst for the city's first Splash Pad, located in a low wealth community.

In partnership with the United Way of Onslow County she assisted in launching the Onslow Strong Disaster Recovery Alliance following Hurricane Florence. She is also the recipient of the True Justice International's Woman Changing the World Award, a recipient of the 2019 Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of Commerce Legends of Onslow Award, and a 2022 PRETTY Girls Rock nominee. Ms. Gray is also the former chairperson of Abundant Life Community Outreach, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and Past Associate Matron of Excelsior Chapter #305, Order of the Eastern Stars.

Ms. Gray holds a Doctorate Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership from Liberty University. She is also a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Municipal Administration Course, Public Executive Leadership Academy, and Leading for Results' Local Government Federal Credit Union Fellows Program.

Ms. Gray is a licensed real estate agent and entrepreneur. She is the CEO and owner of Love Life World Travel, a One Star Director with PlanNet Marketing, a Beauty Counter consultant, motivational speaker, business success coach, leadership development coach, and a certified Prepare/Enrich couples and marriage facilitator. She has a passion for empowering others and changing lives and it is her desire to help move families from poverty to prosperity, not just financially but spiritually. Ms. Gray is also a member of Excelsior Chapter #305 Order of the Eastern Stars, and Alpha Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is married to the love of her life Elder Lee V. Gray, III and they are the proud parents of five wonderful children and three beautiful granddaughters. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and traveling.