



# A GLANCE AT BLACK HISTORY

## IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

### Highlighting Ombudsman Bruce Simpson and the Four African Americans who Preceded him in Office

**Mr. Bruce Simpson**, is serving as Detroit's youngest **Fifth** Ombudsman in history! A member of the United States Ombudsman Association, DTE Community Advisory Board, the Municipal League of Cities, the Governmental Financial Officers Association, an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Incorporated, and a strong advocate for  
*"Improving the Quality of Life on a Daily Basis."*

**Mrs. Durene L. Brown**, served as Detroit's **Fourth** Ombudsman in 2005-2015. She raised the bar of customer service and increased complaint resolution during her tenure. In 1984, Mrs. Brown was appointed to the Albion City Council, which led to her election as the first African American woman to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of Albion, Michigan.

**The late Mr. John R. Eddings**, served as Detroit's **Third** Ombudsman in 1994-2004. He served as the City of Detroit's Deputy Director of Human Resources, and Assistant Director of the Civic Center Department.

**The late Ms. Marie Farrell-Donaldson**, served as Detroit's **Second** Ombudsman in 1984-1994. She was also the City of Detroit's first African American female Auditor General, and the first African American female Certified Public Accountant in Michigan.

**The late Mr. Forrest F. Green**, served as Detroit's **First** Ombudsman in 1974, and was the founder of Michigan Barber College in 1947, that started in the old "Black Bottom" of Detroit, and is now operating on Grand River Avenue.