

BIOGRAPHY

OF

DWIGHT TILLERY

Dwight Tillery grew up in Cincinnati where he was educated in its public schools and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctor of Laws from the University of Michigan Law School.

Dwight has held a number of distinguished professional positions throughout his career. Mr. Tillery is a licensed attorney in the state of Ohio and is also licensed to practice before the Federal District court, the Six Circuit Appellate Court, and the United States Supreme Court. Dwight has been an attorney for over thirty years.

In 1991, Mr. Tillery stunned the City of Cincinnati by becoming the first African American popularly elected Mayor of Cincinnati. As Mayor, he created the Mayor's Commission on Children, Reshaping Youth Priorities; (anti violence organization targeting youth) spoke frequently at public schools, played a key role in establishing venture capital for African American businesses (this fund allowed the start of Blue Chip Broadcasting Company), and assisted in establishing a mentoring program for minority businesses.

As a member of city council, he sponsored many pieces of legislation that benefited the poor and minorities. He authored legislation that created a surrogate-parenting program entitled "It Takes a Village." It was Mayor Tillery who founded the GrassRoots Leadership Academy, which trained hundreds of low to moderate-income citizens how to be leaders in their communities. Mr. Tillery was deeply disturbed that Avondale did not have a neighborhood grocery store and persuaded city council to provide the resources to a group of Avondale ministers interested in revitalizing the Avondale Town Center.

Mr. Tillery is a recipient of many awards and honors including an honorary doctorate from the Cincinnati State Technical College, The Leadership Excellence Award from the office of the Governor of Ohio, The Award of Excellence from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio Civil Rights Dream Award, Outstanding Commitment To Public Service Award from The Citizens' Committee On Youth, The Health Hero Award from the Ohio Commission On Minority Health, Dr King's "Keep the Dream Alive" Award and the Gertrude E. Rush Award from The National Bar Association. Additionally, Mr. Tillery served on many boards and commissions.

Currently, Mr. Tillery is Founder and President and C.E.O. of The Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati whose mission is "to lead the efforts in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities in Greater Cincinnati through Advocacy, Education, and Community Outreach." He has dedicated his life to community service.

