

Tim Stevens  
Chairman & CEO

Lorraine B. Cross  
B-PEP VP and Civic  
Engagement Coordinator

A. Odell Richardson  
Treasurer

Roy Blankenship, Jr.,  
Community Organizer /  
Peace Summit Coordinator

Rev. Michele P. Ellison  
B-PEP Radio Host/Producer

Stephanie M. Carey  
B-PEP Administrative /  
CEIR Executive Assistant

Nyota Robinson  
B-PEP Secretary

Tyler Dague  
Media/Web Consultant

Brandon Davis  
B-PEP Social Media Coordinator

Alexander Payton  
B-PEP Housing Advocate

In Memoriam:  
Rev. Samson Cooper  
Valerie Dixon  
Rev. Dr. James Garmon  
Rev LeRoy Patrick  
Reggie Roberts  
Karen Wright  
Mary Young

Planning Council Members:

Rick Adams  
William Anderson  
Ronel Baccus  
Art Baldwin  
Ron Bandes  
Rev. Maureen Cross-Bolden  
K.L. Brewer  
Lois M. Cain  
Richard Carrington  
Martha Conley, Esq.  
Mary Evans  
Sister Barbara Finch  
Sarah Bartholomew Fisher  
Josh Fleitman  
Donna Griffin  
Alan Guenther  
Walter Hales  
Elder Eugene Hanner  
H.P. Jackson  
Ron King  
Leona Knight  
Jenny Ladd  
Lois Toni McClendon  
Errol Miller, Esq.  
Kenneth Alan Miller  
Faith Mudd  
Kim Mudd  
Betty Pickett  
Nicol Smith Porter  
Marlene V. Ramseur  
Beth Schongar  
William "Jack" Simmons Esq.  
Rev. Eileen O. Smith  
Richard A. Stewart, Jr.  
Celeste Taylor  
David Tessitor  
Cynthia Vanda  
Rhonda Wood  
Ashley Woodson



c/o Alma Speed Fox Building 2201 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-212-8775

August 5, 2024

The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

cc: Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, Sen. Jay Costa, Sen. Vincent Hughes, Sen. Shariff Street

Dear Governor Shapiro:

First, let us wish you and your family a happy and productive summer on behalf of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP).

Soon, you will be appointing Judges to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and to the Court of Common Pleas Fifth District in Allegheny County. The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) asks that you appoint African-American judges to fill the vacancies in these courts.

It is the mission of B-PEP that "African Americans VOTE in EACH and EVERY Election!", but also, that those in elected and appointed positions expeditiously and effectively meet the needs, aspirations, and concerns of the African-American residents they serve. This part of B-PEP's mission includes the judiciary, which is considered the last resort in resolving disputes and helping to provide justice to the citizens of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The 2020 U.S. Census says that 13.5% of Allegheny County residents are African Americans, while the population of African Americans in the Allegheny County jail stands above 66% as of the date of this letter.

With only one African-American judge on the Superior Court, its composition is 5.6-6.7% African American (depending on whether one includes senior judges). We believe the appointment of a qualified African-American judge to fill the vacancy created by the election of Judge McCaffrey to the Supreme Court will not cure the disparities and discrimination that African Americans have endured, but will at least be a step in the right direction.

With only six African Americans out of 43 judges on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, with only one serving in the Criminal Division where over 60% of its defendants are persons of color, it is hard to fathom a sense of justice in the minds of the majority of defendants who come before this court. There are far too many African Americans coming before the bench, and too few sitting behind the bench.

**It's a LIFETIME COMMITMENT...**

**African Americans VOTE in EACH and EVERY election!!  
Celebrating the 59th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.**

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We are recommending the appoint of the Common Pleas Court Judge Hon. Tiffany Sizemore for the vacancy on the Superior Court, and that you choose from Elizabeth Hughes, Esq., Rosemary Crawford, Esq. and Carmen Robinson for the vacancy on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

We ask that you move on these important appointments as quickly as possible. Thank you for acknowledging our requests. We look forward to hearing very good news.

Sincerely,

*Tim Stevens*

Tim Stevens

Tim Stevens, Chairman & CEO

Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)

412-758-7898

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