

Milton Johnson

2/5/09

Legislative Nominations Committee Statement

Good afternoon Chairman Looney, Chairman Janowski, ranking members McKinney and Piscopo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Milton Johnson. And I am deeply honored that State Senator John McKinney, has appointed me to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, which has afforded me the opportunity to serve alongside some extraordinary people, and has also exposed me to another aspect of public service; something that, over the past 12 ½ years, I've committed myself to.

I would like to share with you, my background, my educational and life experience, as well as my family history as evidence of my qualifications for this position.

I was born, October 24, 1972, the youngest of five sons to a single mother who emigrated to the U.S. from Jamaica in 1969. When I was a child, my mother became psychologically and, later on, physically ill, and so I was raised primarily by a committee of Aunts and cousins.

I attended Bullard Havens Technical School and graduated in 1990 with a certificate in the Culinary Arts. I joined the U.S. Navy in 1991, but was released on an RE-1 (Entry Level Separation) later that year when an investigation revealed that my enlistment was coerced. I attended Housatonic Community College in 1993 and 1994. I became a Bridgeport Police Officer in 1996, which is where my journey through public service began. During my tenure as an officer, I have earned several awards, unit citations, and a letter of commendation for capturing a murder suspect within minutes of committing the crime.

Being a police officer has allowed me the opportunity to see life from different perspectives, cultures, and communities – as Bridgeport has as diverse a population as any city or town in Connecticut. My career as an officer has also put me in a position to see the needs of my community up close and personally, which was the driving force behind my entry into the world of politics.

In 1997, I joined the Bridgeport Guardians, which is an organization of minority police officers, whose goal was to fight against racial discrimination within the police department. In 2007, I was elected to the executive board of that very organization, and under new leadership, we've focused our attention on getting more community orientated. We've since been awarding scholarships to college bound students, and for many years, in conjunction with our partner law firm, have been delivering gifts to needy families during the holiday season.

In 2007, I petitioned and ran for Mayor of the city of Bridgeport on the platform of improving education and public safety as the main prerequisites for Bridgeport's revitalization. Although I lost that election, I haven't lost my desire to continue to improve lives through public service.

In 2008 I was the Republican candidate for State Senator of the 23rd District. Even though I wasn't victorious in winning the seat, I claimed victory in knowing that for the first time, in a very long time, an election actually took place in that district, and the people were afforded the opportunity to choose between two viable candidates. I've also met some remarkable people, along the way.

In 2004, I attended the Greater Bridgeport Board of Realtors, and became a licensed Realtor.

In 2008 I became a licensed Real Estate Broker, and own M. L Johnson Real Estate Services, Llc.

I am a married father of 3 wonderful children, ages 13, 11, and 10. My children inspire and motivate me to give them a better life than I had; to encourage them to do greater things than I've done; and to achieve more in life than I will. Life experience has taught me that that is my #1 objective.

So although my background is short on formal education, I feel that my collage of life experiences and my desire to continue to improve the lives of others through public service, qualifies me to serve on the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. With that, I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.