**DONNA M. BLACK, M.A.**

**Board Secretary**



Donna grew up in a Black working-class family. Life expectations, duties and obligations were clearly outlined to her by parents who had strong family bonds, community ties, work ethics, historic racial memories of tragedies committed against black people living on American soil, hope for positive social-political-legal-economic-cultural progress and definitive Christian beliefs. She was identified to be the child that would go to college, succeed and bring honor and prestige to the family name in service to family ideals.

Donna earned her Bachelor degree in Social work and her Masters’ degree in Sociology at Cleveland State University in Cleveland Ohio. She also completed Master’s coursework in Corrections and doctoral coursework in Sociology at Kent State University. Donna’s loves are research, philosophy, social discourse, science fiction and metaphysics.

Donna’s life has allowed her to witness atrocities committed against the Black community. She has also experienced atrocities committed against her family and herself. Her academic and professional journey trained her to advocate against social injustice for all of humanity. Her personal experiences taught her how to withstand them and recover. She continues to live in the inner city in a Black community. While her career experiences caused her to straddle class boundaries that would have her feel disconnected from and disconnected with various aspects of her Self and social reality, they have never made her lose sight of her Afrocentric roots and the obligations this sense of Self engenders her to honor for her family, community and sanity. Crimes such as gun violence and the premature deaths it creates in the Black diaspora touches families from all social strata around the world. It certainly has touched her and her family. Her desire is for social ripples to be enlightening, not threatening. That’s why she is motivated to help bring about change for justice for all of mankind, regardless of their race, gender or class.