



President Sean Langley



## A Message from the President

McCrorey Heights Neighbors,  
Over the course of the last few months, the Executive Board has made incremental steps to build a stronger sense of community. Behind the scenes, we have been working hard to create a neighborhood logo, street toppers, neighborhood directory, block captains, welcome packets, historic designation signs, pursue National Historic Designation, and forge a stronger partnership with First Baptist West and our beloved Johnson C. Smith University.

To achieve most of these efforts, many of you know we pursued the City of Charlotte's Neighborhood Matching Grant. After a bit of a holding period, I am happy to announce that we were awarded funding!

While this is certainly an achievement, this is a matching grant, which means we have to match the money given to us with volunteer hours. So over the course of the next few months, we will organize more volunteer events. We also ask that you document instances where you volunteer in our neighborhood and send it to [McCroreyheightsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:McCroreyheightsassociation@gmail.com).

I'm confident we have the wherewithal to accomplish great things.

Your President,  
Sean Langley

## NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY 1965

The bombing of Dr. Reginald Hawkins' home in November 1965 was a pivotal moment in the history of Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Hawkins, a prominent civil rights activist, had been leading efforts to desegregate schools, hospitals, and restaurants in the city. His house was bombed in the middle of the night by an unknown assailant, but the McCrorey Heights community rallied around him and his family in a show of support and solidarity.

Despite the attack, Dr. Hawkins continued to fight for civil rights in Charlotte and across North Carolina. He ran for governor in 1968, becoming the first African American to seek the office in the state's history. Though he did not win the election, he continued to be a vocal advocate for equality and justice until his death in 2007. Today, residents of Charlotte still remember the bombing and the community's response, a testament to the resilience and determination of those who fought for civil rights in the city.

## Executive Committee



**Shauna Bell**  
Vice President:  
Quality of Life



**Veronica Marshall**  
Secretary



**Angela Stoyanovitch**  
Vice President:  
Land Use &  
Property Matters



**Rosemary  
Lawrence-Young**  
Financial Secretary



**Winston Robinson**  
Vice President:  
Community Engagement



**Annie Alexander**  
Treasurer



**Samantha Taylor**  
HDC Commissioner  
(McCrorey Heights Rep.)  
*\*Pending*

# OUR STORY

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## JCSU Bids Farewell to an Icon: Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Ruth Greene's Retirement

After 40 years of service, Dr. Ruth Greene, renowned Professor of Psychology at Johnson C. Smith University who will be retiring in the coming days.



Dr. Ruth Greene

By way of background, Dr. Greene received her doctorate degree from University of Massachusetts and was a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Aging and Human Development at Duke University and the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Upon completion, Dr. Greene taught, conducted research, and held leading administrative roles at several colleges and universities before becoming a distinguished Professor at Johnson C. Smith University.

Her broad research interests include urban education, minority aging, cultural competency, diversity, and adolescent development. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards ranging from the National Institute of Health to the National Science Foundation. But her biggest accomplishment is the impact that she has made on her students. She has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students through her mentorship, some of whom live in McCrorey Heights today.

Even as her retirement approaches, her accolades continue to grow. Last month, Dr. Greene was awarded the O'Herron Distinguished Professor of Psychology by the Southeastern Psychological Association. Her former students and colleagues wrote letters of support spanning four decades!


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# OUR STORY CTD.

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Dr. Ruth Greene and her husband, Dr. William Greene have resided in McCrorey Heights nearly as long as she's been a Professor at Johnson C. Smith University. They moved to McCrorey Heights in 1979 and first resided at 1704 Patton Avenue before later moving to 1000 Clifton Ave in early 90's. According to Dr. Greene, "they were the youngest couple in the neighborhood and loved the sense of community in McCrorey Heights." It is here where they reared their two children, Jamila Greene and Omari Greene and became very active in the neighborhood leading several initiatives.

Because we are proud to call her our own, please join us after our neighborhood meeting to celebrate her well deserved retirement. At this celebration, we will also celebrate another notable educator in our neighborhood, Ms. Mildred Grier as she turned 100 years old yesterday, May 10th. We will convene in the First Baptist West Fellowship Hall at 7:30 pm. 

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## **The McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association Awarded the Charlotte Museum of History's Excellence in Preservation Award**

The Excellence in Preservation Award honors restoration and building projects in the greater Charlotte region that exemplify the best of historic preservation.

We received this award in part because of you! As many of you may recall, the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association developed a leadership committee to pursue becoming a local historic district. This leadership committee worked tirelessly to educate residents, collecting signatures, and completing necessary documentation. In August of 2022, we successfully became Charlotte's 8th Local Historic District. Our ability to protect and preserve this culturally and socially significant neighborhood some 70 years later made us deserving of this award.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 11th at 6:00 pm at the Charlotte Museum of History. This is an invitation-only event so space is extremely limited. McCrorey Heights residents', Mrs. Nichelle Hawkins and Mrs. Marilyn Twitty Brown will accept these awards on behalf of the neighborhood. -Sean Langley

# FEATURE

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## Johnson C. Smith University: Honoring History and Celebrating Achievements at Spring Commencement



Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) is gearing up to celebrate its 156th spring commencement this May. The University, which is heralded as one of the best small colleges in the nation, has a rich history that dates back to 1867 when it was founded as Freedmen's College of North Carolina. Today, JCSU serves more than 1,100 students and employs more than 240 full-time faculty members, administrators, and staff.

This year's commencement ceremony will be held in Bojangles Coliseum on Sunday, May 21st. The event will feature GRAMMY® Award-winning, multiplatinum singer, songwriter, producer, and actor Anthony Hamilton as the commencement speaker. Hamilton is a North Carolina native who has achieved international acclaim for his music, which blends traditional Southern soul with contemporary R&B.

Prior to commencement, the University will hold its Baccalaureate service in the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church on Friday, May 19th, at 4 p.m. The Baccalaureate speaker will be the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes, who serves as Senior Pastor of The faith family of West Point Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

JCSU has a long and storied history that reflects its commitment to providing a quality education to students from all backgrounds.

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# FEATURE(CTD.)

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The University was originally founded by the Rev. S.C. Alexander and the Rev. W. L. Miller as Freedmen's College of North Carolina in 1867. The school was later renamed Biddle University after benefactor Mary D. Biddle's late husband, Capt. Henry J. Biddle. In 1923, the institution was renamed Johnson C. Smith University to honor the generous donation of Jane Berry Smith in memory of her late husband.

Over the years, JCSU has been the recipient of several generous donations and grants, which have allowed the University to expand its physical campus and invest in academic culture enhancements. Notable additions include the Jack S. Brayboy Gymnasium, the Duke Memorial Library, and the University Memorial Union. JCSU was also a founding member of the United Negro College Fund in 1944, which helped to further cement its place in the national landscape of historically Black colleges and universities.

In recent years, JCSU has continued to innovate and invest in its students. In 2000, the University gained national recognition by launching the IBM Laptop Initiative, which provided an IBM laptop computer to every student. In 2011, The Duke Endowment awarded JCSU a \$35 million grant to support science programs, scholarships, and capital improvements on campus.

More recently, JCSU has been at the forefront of efforts to address racial inequity in Charlotte and beyond. In November 2021, the University received \$80 million as part of the Mayor's Racial Equity Initiative, a pledge of \$250 million from corporations and philanthropic leaders in the wake of national events that amplified racial inequity across the nation in summer 2020.

As JCSU looks ahead to its 156th spring commencement and beyond, the University remains committed to producing graduates who can communicate effectively, think critically, learn independently and collaboratively, and demonstrate excellence in their chosen career fields. With a rich history, a commitment to innovation, and a focus on equity and inclusion, JCSU is poised to continue making a significant impact in the lives of its students and in the Charlotte community for years to come. **M**

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# AROUND THE WAY

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## What is the Future for the Historic Excelsior Club

The new owner, Darius Anderson, founder and CEO of Kenwood Investments purchased the Excelsior Club in 2020 with major support from the city. Last Wednesday, he met with local residents at the Allegra Westbrook Regional Library to share his proposed plans for this site and to seek public input. Because the Excelsior Club is in such disrepair, he will have to demolish the entire structure before building it back to resemble the original structure. According to Darius, while this is less than ideal, this building can't be salvaged.

Included in his new design for this site will be a boutique hotel, restaurant, performance area, and museum. The back portion of the building will open into an outdoor terrace. The performance area will allow live music and space for people to socialize. The museum will recognize the notable black Americans that have transformed our city, state, and nation. Discounted rates for McCrorey Heights residents and a select group of neighborhoods in West Charlotte may apply.



The biggest challenge preventing the Excelsior Club redevelopment has been parking. To accommodate guests who will be staying at the boutique hotel, they will need additional parking. Currently, they are 15 parking spaces short of meeting the city code minimum. Once this issue is addressed, Kenwood Investments will begin construction. The anticipated completion date is 2026 if parking challenges are resolved. **M**



**NEEK**  
TEA CO.™

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# HISTORIC DESIGNATION COMMISSION REPORT

In the City of Charlotte, project applications to various boards generally have fees for submission associated with them. This is true for the Historic District Commission (HDC). And, in 2022, City Council added ‘After-the-Fact’ fees to project application submissions to encourage people to talk with the HDC before starting a project.

So, what is an ‘After-the-Fact’ project? A project is considered ‘After-the-Fact’ when it is ongoing or completed without prior approval from the HDC, meaning that the project wasn’t reviewed and approved prior to the start of the work and no Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) was issued. An ‘After-the-Fact’ project adds time and money to the project for both the applicant and the HDC. Additionally, in some cases if the work (that is already in process or finished) is determined to not comply with the Charlotte Historic District Design Standards, then that work will be required to be corrected and/or removed.

Below is the current HDC fee schedule:

Project	Fee	Description
Administrative Review	N/A	See page 2.6 of the HDC Design Standards
Administrative Review, After-the-Fact <i>(work done without pre-approval)</i>	\$350	See page 2.6 of the HDC Design Standard
Minor Review <i>(including After-the-Fact applications)</i>	\$840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additions of any size to structures located on corner lots.</li><li>• Accessory structures visible from public-rights-of way, such as garages on corner lots.</li></ul>
Major Review <i>(including After-the-Fact applications)</i>	\$1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additions that increase the square footage of the principal structure by 50% or more.</li><li>• Painting previously unpainted masonry.</li><li>• New construction of principal structures.</li></ul>
Demolition	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demolition of primary structures</li></ul>



# HISTORIC DESIGNATION COMMISSION REPORT

Basically, administrative (staff) review cases have no application fee. But, if it's an After-the-Fact case for administrative review, then the fee is \$350. Please note that many projects can be reviewed by the HDC staff versus going to the Full Commission for review, and if the application for staff review is submitted and reviewed **before** the work has started, then there is no application fee. Once an application is submitted and processed through our system, then Staff will let the applicant know via email if a fee is required and the amount.

We strongly encourage applicants to contact the HDC staff prior to the start of a project – even if it's in the backyard or interior or seemingly minor.

For more information regarding the Historic District Commission Application Process contact us at:

704.336.2205 or [charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov](mailto:charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov)

Here's a link to the fee schedule:

<https://www.charlottenc.gov/files/sharedassets/city/growth-and-development/planning-and-zoning/documents/historic-districts/application-for-certificate-of-appropriateness/eplanreviewapplicationinstructions.pdf>

And, a link to the HDC homepage:

<https://www.charlottenc.gov/Growth-and-Development/Planning-and-Development/Historic-District>

As well as a direct link to the Charlotte Historic District Design Standards:

<https://www.charlottenc.gov/files/sharedassets/city/growth-and-development/planning-and-zoning/documents/hdcdesignstandards.pdf>

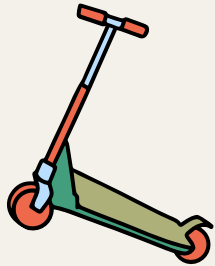
# THE GRAPEVINE

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McCrorey Community Neighborhood  
Marketplace Announcements Recognitions

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## Community Yard Sale



Saturday, May 20th  
8:00am - 12:00pm  
1725 Madison Avenue



### Donations needed:

- Clothes (adult and children)
- Household goods
- Appliances
- Toys
- Tools
- Books
- CD's/Albums
- Furniture
- Electronics
- Anything else

### Drop off locations:

Text to schedule drop off  
Please drop off items by May 17th

Marilyn Twitty Brown  
1725 Madison Avenue  
804-513-6877

Shauna Bell  
1610 Van Buren Avenue  
513-850-2322

All proceeds will benefit the McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association  
Unsold items will be donated



# **THE GRAPEVINE**

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**McCrorey      Community      Neighborhood  
Marketplace    Announcements    Recognitions**

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May Celebrations!!!

*Happy*  
**BIRTHDAY**

May 10th - Mrs. Mildred Grier

We want to celebrate with you!!!

Complete this short questionnaire  
(<https://tinyurl.com/MHAquestionnaire>) to give us updated information  
about your household.

It should take you less than 5 minutes.



# ACCORDING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

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**Name:** Quiana Robinson

**Street:** Washington

**Where are you from:** Charlotte, NC

**Food your neighbors should try:**  
Cassava Leaf from Zowee's on N. Tryon St.

**One album your neighbors should take on a road trip:**  
"Renaissance" by Beyonce

**One song your neighbors should listen to in the gym:**  
"Energy" by Beyonce

**5 music artists you would recommend for a deep dive:**  
Beyonce  
Tems  
Jill Scott  
Erykah Badu  
Kirk Franklin

**One book your neighbors should read:**  
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

**One series your neighbors should binge-watch:**  
In Our Mothers' Gardens (Netflix)

**One movie your neighbors should see:**  
School Daze

**Favorite business on the West Side:**  
Archive

**Best advice ever received:**  
You have options.

**Get something off your chest:**  
When the greater world realizes the implications of oral health on overall health, our systemic approach to treatment will change forever.



**OUR NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING IS  
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023, AT FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH WEST.  
THE MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY  
AT 6 P.M.**

