

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce

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### Lillie Gray Named Legend of Onslow 2019

Lille Gray is a native of California and has been a resident of Jacksonville/Onslow County since 1990. She is a Realtor and joined the Century 21 Champion team in 2012. She is also the Director of Community Engagement for the City of Jacksonville where she provides expert oversight of the Community Engagement Department to include code enforcement, community development and community programs and livable neighborhoods. She manages all facets of strategic and neighborhood planning, special projects, and community engagement initiatives.

Lillie lives out her passion of helping homebuyers achieve the American dream of home ownership. Lillie and The City of Jacksonville is dedicated to building safe, livable neighborhoods for all citizens. Lille organized The Office of Livable Neighborhoods that was created to bring residents of neighborhoods together to form a unified voice for improving their community and addressing concerns with City staff. The Office of Livable Neighborhoods helps neighborhoods address issues such as street lights, road maintenance, sidewalk paving and maintenance, fix code violations, improve or establish neighborhood parks, public safety patrol and more.

Lillie also provided vision and played a strategic role in support of capital improvement projects such as the city's first splash pad and Fitness Park, and worked closely with several departments and community stakeholders to revitalize a downtown neighborhood which resulted in an improved tax base and economic impact of more than \$2.5 million.

Lillie is a member of Abundant Life International Baptist Cathedral and serves on the Board of Directors of Abundant Life Community Outreach, a faith-based 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is changing lives and building communities. She is also a member of Excelsior Chapter #305 Order of the Eastern Star and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Lillie assisted with organizing the Mind, Body & Soul (MBS) Empowerment Conference that informed, inspired, educated and motivated attendees to reach their highest and greatest potential, both personally and professionally.

Lillie is a recipient of the Women Changing the World and Audrey Nelson National Community Development awards. She has a BBA in Business Administration from Campbell University, a MBA in Public Administration from Liberty University, and has over 30 years of experience working for state and local governments. Lillie is currently pursuing her DBA at Liberty University.