

Lafayette Ford

Lafayette Ford was born and raised on Chicago's Westside and attended John Marshall HS from 1965 graduating in 1968. Lafayette holds a B.A. degree in Communications from St. Joseph College, Ind. After college he held several positions with the City of Chicago including Department of Human Services, Department of Sewers and Director of

South Austin Anti-Crime Program. The last 20 years with the Chicago Public Schools as an administrator including an Local School Council Specialist, and Director of Youth Outreach program (now known as SAFE PASSAGE) and retiring after 34 years of public service. Most of his career was in positions where he directed programs was in community relations. Lafayette was known as 'the go to person' for issues which arisen where there was great controversy between the community and administration. He was both trusted by community and respected by the administration to negotiate difficult situations. Lafayette never had a problem with speaking his mind. When there was a move to possibly close Marshall HS, at a public meeting Lafayette led his CPS supervisor on stage and then was the first person to speak against the action. He then sat across the table from his supervisor for the next three months, representing the Ward Alderman's community contingency, while negotiating the community demands on the 'turn around' of Marshall.

Lafayette also served as Director of Education Programs for Executive Service Corps of Chicago and Executive Director of City Wide Coalition of School Reform. Lafayette has worked as a Consultant, Trainer and Lobbyist on Education Reform. He Served for eight years on several Local School Councils, including elementary and secondary schools and the High School District Council for Chicago Public Schools. He was instrumental in the 1995 Chicago School Reform Act. And served for six years as the Chairman of the Chicago School Board Nomination Commission 1989 - 1995 that made recommendations to the Mayor of the City of Chicago for consideration for the Chicago Board of Education.

Currently Lafayette serves as Vice-Chair of Board of Directors for Black United Fund of Illinois (BUFI), Treasurer of Global Girls, Inc; board member of South Shore Works Preservation and Planning Coalition and served for 25 years as member of Core Group of Real Men Charities Father's Day Celebration and 8 years as President of John Marshal High School Alumni Association.

Lafayette is married to his wife Linda and has two children and now resides in Chicago in the South Shore community.