

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

February 17, 2009

CALL TO PODIUM:

Crystal Carr
Purnell Garris Bell

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Crystal Carr, Director
Community Services

AGENDA ITEM:
(please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
Certificate of Recognition Presented to the Recipient of the <i>Character Counts!</i> Person of Character Award

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
<p>This evening we recognize an outstanding citizen with the Person of Character Award. Mrs. Purnell Garris Bell has dedicated her life to her family, church, and community, and has maintained a lifelong commitment to education and learning.</p> <p>At eighty-eight, Ms. Bell earned her Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Psychology and is now determined to establish a center to support grandparents rearing grandchildren from homes broken by sociological ills such as transient housing, parental drug addiction, unemployment and/or alcoholism. As a licensed psychologist, Ms. Bell will facilitate workshops based on the principle, "Learning to Live and Living to Learn." Her continuous perseverance in the pursuit of excellence personifies the pillar of responsibility and her commitment to community reflects the pillar of citizenship.</p> <p>As a young woman growing up in South Carolina, Ms. Bell experienced civil atrocities, including the observation of several lynchings, which influenced her decision to move north. This move signifies Ms. Bell's sense of dignity and respect for all.</p> <p>Ms. Bell settled in Trenton, New Jersey where she became a dressmaker, studied nursing and health, all while working with local churches to provide social services to families in need. Moreover, she was a part of the open training offered by the New Deal Program introduced in the late 1930's under President Roosevelt's administration. Today she continues to make clothes for underprivileged children.</p> <p>It is an inspiration to witness such a wonderful example of citizenry and an individual's desire to pursue excellence. As the mother of two, a certified nurse, health educator, and avid volunteer with her church, she personifies responsibility, caring and citizenship. We are privileged to have her as a role model in our community and look forward to learning of her next milestone.</p>

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Present Character Counts! <i>Person of Character</i> Award