

PRESS RELEASE

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ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR BEVERLY M. RIDDICK RECOGNIZING HER FOR 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP TO HOMECorp



Freeholder Brendan W. Gill (left) presents Beverly M. Riddick (right) with the Board's Commendation PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Montclair, NJ) – During its Wednesday, June 22nd, meeting held at Montclair Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored Beverly M. Riddick of Montclair for over 20 years of dedicated service to HOMECorp. HOMECorp is a community-based non-profit organization formed to improve and develop permanent affordable housing in Montclair, where Ms. Riddick served as its Executive Director. The Board's Commendation was sponsored and presented by At-Large Freeholder Vice President Brendan W. Gill of Montclair.

In his opening statement, Freeholder Gill noted that he appreciates recognizing people who have made a “real difference” in the communities that they live in. A Montclairian himself, he was happy to be in his hometown of Montclair. And “I couldn't be prouder or more honored to recognize an individual who has served this community.” he said. Currently, Ms. Riddick is the new Executive Director of the Ready to Work Business Collaborative, a new national non-profit organization. She completed her 20-year tenure with HOMECorp on April 29th.

Beverly Riddick is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College located in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she majored in Urban Studies. Following Mount Holyoke, she was awarded a twelve-month fellowship in the Coro Foundation, a public affairs internship program located in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon

completion of Coro, she obtained a Master’s Degree in Public Policy Analysis at Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California.

Ms. Riddick served from 1990-1996 as Assistant Vice President of Real Estate Finance at Chemical Bank of New Jersey (now PNC Bank). While at Chemical, she managed a \$20 million portfolio in real estate loans and asset management accounts. From 1985-1990, she was employed at the First National Bank of Boston (now Bank of America) as a real estate lender/workout specialist.

Executive Director of Homes of Montclair Ecumenical Corp., (HOMECorp), a position Ms. Riddick held from 1996 to April 29, 2016, following a three-year volunteer commitment as a HOMECorp Trustee. As Executive Director, she was responsible for the development and implementation of affordable housing programs and initiatives which address HOMECorp’s mission to create and maintain housing that preserves economic diversity and ignite community revitalization while fostering financial empowerment.

Since she assumed the role of Executive Director of HOMECorp, awareness and outreach related to the critical presence of housing choices in any community has expanded. HOMECorp acquired, renovated and sold single and multi-family properties to income-eligible homebuyers in Montclair and rehabilitated and manage 66 rental units, all occupied by low, moderate and middle-income families and small commercial businesses. Since 1996, Ms. Riddick expanded HOMECorp’s budget by over 800% through programs and services that housed over 399 people, counseled 8000 residents, and generated \$15,000,000 in total project funding. The impact of HOMECorp’s work on behalf of low, moderate, and middle income families has both enriched and preserved the community.

Ms. Riddick has received a number of awards including the Positive Community Award, the Shirley Chisholm-Catalyst for Change Award, American Association of University Women-Women as Agents of Change Award, US Congress Certificate of Congressional Recognition, Montclair Economic Development Corp.-Community Award, and the National Council of Negro Women-Business Award.

She is married to her husband Ron and they live in Montclair with their two children.

In her acceptance of the commendation, Ms. Riddick thanked the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the recognition. She stated, “It’s always good when you put so much of your heart and soul into what you do every day, week after week, month after month, and year after year. And it’s just nice to know that it’s appreciated.” She closed by saying, “I hope the Town Council, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the State of New Jersey will continue to hold affordability for all people, all citizens: low, moderate and middle income people who bring so much, and contribute so much to make Montclair, in particular, what it is.”

The presentation was also attended by Freeholder Patricia Sebold of Livingston, Freeholder Cynthia Toro of Bloomfield and Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell.

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