

2015-2016 CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF RECOGNITION – NOMINEE DESCRIPTIONS

Citizen of the Year – Charles A. “Chuck” Black

Charles A. “Chuck” Black and his wife, Lynn Elsasser, moved to Fort Lauderdale to pursue their entrepreneurial dream and opened Signs By Tomorrow in December 2003, a graphics, signage and display company located in Fort Lauderdale’s FATVillage Arts District. With 10 years prior experience in the marine industry as a yacht broker in Annapolis, Maryland and a 20-year U.S. Navy career, Black brought a fresh and unique perspective to the visual communications industry.

In 2013, Signs By Tomorrow was rebranded as Image360 and, over the past 13 years, the company has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including being named the 2014 Small Business of the Year by the Great Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

Black is an active and engaged member of the community, serving in leadership positions on numerous boards and committees. Currently, Black serves on the City’s Marine Advisory Board, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, National Navy League of the United States, Navy League Foundation, Navy League Fort Lauderdale Council, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Ridge Civic Association, and the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations.

Black is also a founding committee member for several special events, including the St. Patrick’s Parade and Festival, Great American Beach Party, and Light Up Sistrunk. Black also cofounded America Remembers Our Heroes...A Tribute to the Fallen.

Black’s passion and support of the United States Navy is evident in the time he dedicates to educating the community about the sacrifice our service men and women and their families make to protect our country and preserve our freedom. His commitment is also reflected in the time, talent, and resources he has voluntarily contributed to the commissioning of military ships. Black chaired the commissioning of USS JASON DUNHAM (DDG 109) in 2010 and served in the same role for the commissioning of the USCG Cutter RICHARD ETHERIDGE (WPC 1102) in 2012. He spearheaded the initiative that resulted in the United States Navy’s recent announcement to name a new amphibious transport dock ship the USS FORT LAUDERDALE (LPD 28) in honor of our City’s historic ties to U.S. Navy.

About Chuck Black

Charles A. “Chuck” Black, born in Spartanburg, SC, served a distinguished career in the United States Navy for 20 years, earning two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, and “Sailor of the Year” from two different commands. Over the course of his Navy career, Black served on five different types of ships and moved to many great beach destinations, as well as Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Black completed his naval career in Washington, D.C.

In 2003, Black relocated to Fort Lauderdale and opened Signs by Tomorrow (rebranded as Image360 in 2013). Prior to relocating to Fort Lauderdale, Black was a yacht broker for 10 years in Annapolis, Maryland.

Black earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland and a Diploma in Acting from the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Washington, D.C. He has performed at such venues as the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and in New York City, as well as locally here in Fort Lauderdale.

Black played professional baseball, was an avid downhill skier and, at one point, lived aboard a sailboat with his wife, Lynn. Black and his wife have one son and one grandson.

Distinguished Citizen – Michael C. Weymouth

The names **Michael C. Weymouth**, Las Olas Boulevard, and downtown Fort Lauderdale have almost become synonymous. As president of The Las Olas Company, a family-owned business specializing in the hotel/hospitality and real estate development/management industry since 1935, Weymouth has helped revitalize and reinvigorate Las Olas Boulevard. Thanks in large part to his leadership and vision, Las Olas Boulevard has evolved into the jewel of downtown Fort Lauderdale attracting hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors each year.

Since arriving in Fort Lauderdale in 1975, Weymouth has left an indelible mark on our community. He is a strong, charismatic leader, a stalwart supporter of the City, and a pillar that can always be counted upon to move Fort Lauderdale closer to achieving its vision of becoming the “City You Never Want to Leave.”

Weymouth’s dedication and commitment to our City can be seen in his generous support of numerous worthy causes. Over the past decade, he has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority; City of Fort Lauderdale Unsafe Structures Board; Broward Workshop; Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Council of Economic Advisors; Riverwalk Trust; POLO, Inc.; Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade; Executives’ Association of Fort Lauderdale; Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick’s Parade & Festival; and Junior Achievement of South Florida.

About Michael C. Weymouth

Michael C. Weymouth was born on the north shore of Chicago in Lake Forest, Illinois and resided there for seven years. He spent eight years living abroad in Belgium, Italy, and Spain. Weymouth permanently moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1975.

Weymouth graduated from Nova High School, received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Miami, and Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. He also holds a Florida Real Estate Broker License and a Florida General Contractor License.

Prior to taking over the day-to-day management of The Las Olas Company, Weymouth ran his own real estate and construction business for 10 years and worked in development with local and national companies, including Blockbuster Entertainment, Trammell Crow Company, and CMC Development Group.

Weymouth, who is fluent in English and Spanish, is married to Jody Weymouth and has two sons who are both in college, a 12-year old stepdaughter, and two stepsons who are 18 and 14 years old.

When not working, Weymouth enjoys boating, fishing, diving, golf and softball. He also enjoys traveling, both locally and abroad.

Exemplary Former City Employee – Ada Bradley Moore

Ada Bradley Moore served the City of Fort Lauderdale with distinction and dedication during her 30 years as an employee in the Parks & Recreation Department. As a Community Builder, Moore left her imprint on our community through the thousands of individuals she encountered on playgrounds of Fort Lauderdale and at special events throughout the City. Through activities such as Teen Clubs, competitive games, and programs promoting self-esteem such as “Ok to Be Me,” Moore guided the growth and development of Fort Lauderdale’s youth for the better part of three decades. Many of the children Moore worked with grew up to become responsible adults who, to this day, continue to give back to the City through their professional careers and leadership roles.

Moore was also influential with adults, providing them with life skills that would serve them well in their everyday lives. She taught women and men to sew and cook and created the popular “Keenagers,” program which continues to serve as one of Fort Lauderdale’s signature Club 55+ seniors activities.

Throughout her career, Moore received numerous accolades and awards, including the 1977-1978 Service Award from the Florida Recreation and Park Association; Outstanding Service Award from the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale; the Honor Thy Women Award from the Panhellenic Association; recognition as a Black Pioneer of Fort Lauderdale; special recognition from the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division for her support of countywide services; and leadership awards from the Sistrunk Historical Festival. Moore also received the Nora Neale Hurston Award from the Friends of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) for her dedication to the Fort Lauderdale community and her commitment to the AARLCC. In addition, Moore was recognized by Ashanti, a cultural dance group, for her support of programs that develop young girls through the art of dance.

Following her retirement, Moore served on Broward County’s Parks and Recreation Board, sharing her expertise in recreational programming. Moore also served as a mentor for others in the area of public administration and was among a cadre of black public administrators that helped found the National Forum for Black Public Administrations in Fort Lauderdale in 1982.

There can be no greater contribution to the welfare of a city, or to a community than helping to mold the hearts, minds, and bodies of its most impressionable residents – its youth; or, to find worth and purpose for its most cherished citizens – its seniors. Ada Moore did both through her years of community service with the City’s Parks & Recreation Department. She loved Fort Lauderdale and, this love of city and community, prompted her to encourage her son, Carlton Bradley Moore, to carry on the tradition of public service. Being a good son, Carlton listened to his mother, ran for City Commission, won, and served Fort Lauderdale with distinction for 20 years.

About Ada B. Moore

Ada Bradley Moore was born in 1928 in Orlando, Florida, the second of two children. She attended Jones High School and matriculated at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. Moore married Benjamin Moore and had four children.

Moore worked for the Tampa Parks and Recreation Department for nine years, receiving in-service training at the University of Tampa’s Recreation and Physical Education Department during her tenure. In 1960, Moore was recruited by Joseph C. Carter to work for the City’s Parks & Recreation Department, where she served for 30 years.

Moore, who is a member of Harris United Methodist Church, has 12 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Honored Founder – Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk

Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk was born in Midway, Florida on December 25, 1891 and was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Berry Sistrunk. Dr. Sistrunk received his early education at Fessenden Academy, a private boarding school for Negro students in Ocala, Florida. Dr. Sistrunk earned his undergraduate degree at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and graduated with honors from Meharry Medical College, also in Nashville, in 1919.

After serving in World War I, Dr. Sistrunk relocated to Dunnellon, Florida to practice medicine. He moved to Fort Lauderdale in April 1922 and began a long and illustrious career serving the medical needs of Fort Lauderdale's growing African-American community.

Dr. Sistrunk was a qualified surgeon, yet he was not allowed to perform surgical procedures in white hospitals. Until 1938, Dr. Sistrunk was restricted to delivering babies and is credited with delivering more than 5,000 babies during his 44 years of practice. Dr. Sistrunk, who was respected as an excellent diagnostician, also made house calls throughout Broward County to assist those who were financially strained.

In 1938, Dr. Sistrunk partnered with Dr. Von D. Mizell to establish Fort Lauderdale's first medical facility for blacks, Provident Hospital, which was located in a ramshackle building near Dr. Sistrunk's office. Working diligently, the two doctors involved the community in fundraising efforts and shortly afterward the hospital opened on the N.W. 6th Street location that is currently Provident Park. As a tribute to his service, the Pediatrics Ward of Provident Hospital was named the James Franklin Sistrunk Children's Pavilion. Dr. Sistrunk served as Chief of Staff of Provident Hospital for decades and was an active staff member of Broward General Hospital.

Dr. Sistrunk also joined Dr. Mizell, Dr. R.L. Brown and Dr. Calvin H. Shirley in the fight to break racial barriers in local medicine while juggling office visits and house calls.

Known as "kindly old Doc Sistrunk," the memory of Dr. Sistrunk lives on today in the hearts and minds of thousands of Fort Lauderdaleians for the thousands of lives he touched, causes he supported, and contributions he made to the progress and advancement of our City.

In 1971, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission unanimously approved renaming N.W. 6 Street in honor of Dr. Sistrunk and, in 2013, unanimously approved extending the name Sistrunk Boulevard east to Federal Highway.

Dr. Sistrunk continued practicing medicine until shortly before his death in March of 1966 at the age of 75.

Honored Founder – John Fuhrer

From a very early age, John Fuhrer had a love for aviation. His interest in flying piqued before the onset of World War II where he proudly served in the United States Army Air Corps, attaining the rank of second lieutenant in the Counterintelligence Corps. Following the War, Fuhrer and his wife, Claire, moved to Fort Lauderdale where he worked as a real estate broker, establishing his business east of the historic Gateway Theater.

Former City Commissioner F. Peter Clements appointed Fuhrer to the Fort Lauderdale Aviation Advisory Board (AAB) in June of 1965 where he unselfishly volunteered his time and expertise as both a member and the chairman (1968-1994) for nearly 30 years. Fuhrer would have gladly continued serving on the board; however, he had to resign due to term limit requirements.

As chairman of the AAB, Fuhrer drew upon his real estate and finance expertise to encourage the development of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). Under his leadership, FXE grew from what was once an old U.S. Navy aviator training facility to what is today one of the top 10 busiest general aviation airports in the country. Fuhrer was also instrumental in the development of the 200-acre Airport Industrial Airpark, which offers more than one million square feet of prime office, warehouse, and manufacturing space.

During Fuhrer's tenure, the AAB made numerous recommendations to the City Commission which resulted in Fort Lauderdale retaining airport land and entering into long-term ground leases to ensure a future revenue stream; developing airport property and the Uptown Business District into a world-class international business center; supporting aviation-related commerce including avionics/aerospace manufacturing, high technology, finance, and real estate; implementing a special flight path for the large corporate jets in order to reduce noise levels for the airport neighbors; minimizing the use of FXE for flight training; establishing a sanctuary for native gopher tortoises and burrowing owls; and developing a downtown Heli-stop to link FXE with the downtown business community, which was named Airport Project of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation in 2002.

Fuhrer also assisted with developing guidelines and standards such as zoning, deed restrictions, and protective covenants for improvements to the airport site. These requirements were fundamental to the successful development of the property, which today, continues to enhance the City's Uptown Business District.

John Fuhrer's executive skills and ability to interact with people in a professional manner were exemplary, and the remarkable growth and development of one of the City's most valuable assets, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, would not have been possible without his vision, dedication, and passion for aviation.

About John Fuhrer

John Fuhrer was born in St. Louis, Missouri on May 17, 1917. Fuhrer attended school and college in St. Louis and, later, owned commercial property, as well as automobile and lumber businesses.

Fuhrer married his wife Claire in 1939 and, together, they raised two daughters in their Fort Lauderdale home where Claire still resides today. Fuhrer also had two granddaughters, a great-grandson and a great-granddaughter.

Fuhrer and his wife were both licensed pilots who enjoyed traveling the country in their single engine plane experiencing airport facilities throughout the U.S.

In addition to be a long-time member of the AAB, John Fuhrer also volunteered his time and services to numerous other boards and committees including the Lauderdale Yacht Club, The Hundred Club of Broward County, Navy League of the United States, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Masonic Order, Shriners, and the Broward Citizens' Committee.

A founder of the American National Bank, Fuhrer also served on its board where he played a significant role in the construction of two Fort Lauderdale churches – Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church on Federal Highway and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on the fringe of Holiday Park.

John Fuhrer passed away May 17, 2003. Following his death, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission unanimously approved renaming the Downtown Helistop in his honor. Today the helistop is known as the John Fuhrer Fort Lauderdale Downtown Helistop.