



# NEWS

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR

KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, JR., VICE CHAIR

JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER

**Contact:** Program co-chairpersons, Doretha Fields, (610) 278-3264 or  
Garfield Jackson, (484) 804-2457.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 22, 2019**

### **Montgomery County Celebrates Accomplishments of African-Americans During Annual Black History Program**

**Norristown, PA (February 22, 2019)** – Montgomery County residents are invited to attend the annual Black History Program hosted by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Black History Month Committee on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event will take place at the Montgomery County Human Services Center, 1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown.

This year's program will focus on the national theme, "Black Migrations," as established by the Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH). It will showcase riveting speakers on Black Migrations, along with songs, dance, spoken word and musical selections. Additionally, several African-American community leaders will be honored for their service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Honorees include Norristown Police Chief Mark E. Talbot and Stacey Woodland, CEO of YWCA Tri-County Area.

"For more than 10 years, this program has been a wonderful opportunity to share the significant contributions of African-Americans in our history with county employees as well as the community at large," said Doretha Fields, program co-chairperson. "We are fortunate to work for an organization that appreciates the accomplishments of all communities and encourages us to celebrate those contributions."

Affectionately known as the Father of Black History, Historian Carter G. Woodson, initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926, which for many years was celebrated in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In the mid-1970s, Black History Week expanded to Black History Month.

"Many opportunities opened up for African-Americans as they moved throughout this country searching for economic, political, and social equality," said Garfield Jackson, program co-chairperson. "For many families, these migrations were life-changing and provided economic empowerment for generations to follow."

Guest speakers include:

- Dele Babatunde, MD, an early intervention coordinator with the Public Health Management Corporation and an extensive medical researcher who frequently travels to Africa on medical missions
- Maurice A. Tony Davis, Counselor at Montgomery County Community College and former assistant director of Admissions
- Rev. Marsha Woodward, Director of Supervised Ministries, Palmer Theological Seminary, Eastern University
- Erik K. Grimes, also known as Brother Shomari, an activist, author, speaker, WURD radio host and part-time lecturer and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and the School of Social Policy and Practice.

For more information about the program, contact program co-chairpersons, Doretha Fields, (610) 278-3264 or Garfield Jackson, (484) 804-2457.