



SULPHUR SPRINGS
NEIGHBORHOOD
of PROMISE

neighborhood News

March 2017

Newsletter of the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise

Fourth Generation Sulphur Springs Resident Leads Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise

In January 2017, Jacqueline Coffie Leeks was appointed as the part-time Executive Director of Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise. Ms. Leeks has a long history in Sulphur Springs and extensive experience to fill the position. Born in Sulphur Springs, Jacque attended Sulphur Springs Elementary School, Sligh and Van Buren Middle Schools, and Hillsborough High School. After high school, Jacque attended the University of Florida and ultimately received her Bachelor's Degree from Moody Bible Institute. Jacque also has received a Nonprofit Management Certificate from University of Tampa.



Jacqueline Coffie Leeks

Jacque is also employed part-time by Devereux Kids as the Community Facilitator for Community Engagement and Youth Leadership in Sulphur Springs. She is an ordained minister and has served as a Youth Minister and mentor for many years.

"I am so pleased to be selected as the Executive Director of the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise collaborative initiative. As a native, I believe in the initiative and I see the promise for the community. Over the past two years serving on the Leadership Council, I have seen our residents get more involved and I see the benefits."

In Jacque's own words... "Three of my goals as Executive Director are as follows: increase the visibility of the SSNOP programs so the community can help make the vision a reality; improve collaboration and communications so the residents get more information and referrals and can participate in more of the SSNOP programs; and increase the long-term financial sustainability of the programs."

In addition to her career activities, Jacque is the proud mother of three wonderful children and grandmother of two; she is the Chair of the Derrick Brook Charities Black on Black Crime Task Force and Secretary of the City of Tampa's Mayor's African American Advisory Council; Jacque also received the Tampa Bay Rays Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers Award. Please feel free to contact Jacque at **813-927-6407** or Jacque@ssnop.org.

KEY ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS TOGETHER

1

Continue to improve the Sulphur Springs K-8 Community School and the educational pipeline from birth through high school.

2

Continue to build community-wide cohesiveness and pride in the neighborhood.

3

Improve the economic stability of Sulphur Springs and expand home ownership of residents.

SSNOP Vision

To create a promising future for the neighborhood where ALL children enter school prepared to succeed, function at grade level and graduate from high school prepared for college, technical school, and/or career.

Beautification Days in Sulphur Springs...Are Good for the Neighborhood and the Residents

SSNOP in partnership with Sulphur Springs Community Champions, Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay, Abundant Life Church and other partners has been sponsoring "Beautification Days" in the neighborhood. Curt McKay, Resident Engagement Director for SSNOP says, "Beautification Days are days of pride... the volunteers feel good about working together to make the neighborhood look better and the residents are glad to get the home improvements."

WHAT GETS DONE ON BEAUTIFICATION DAY?

Typically the work is focused on one block at a time. In December, Beautification Day was on Mulberry Street and in January, it was on Idell Street. At the selected homes, the typical tasks are yard raking, sweeping, removal of weeds, removal of debris, and general clean up of the property. For certain homes, the work includes painting the house, installing the Healthy Home Kit by Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay, and installing a new mail box. In some cases, the initial cleaning up outside may lead to residents deciding to make improvements inside, if needed.



Courtlyn McKay, Community Volunteer



Ms. Otero, Resident on Mulberry Street

and give back to the community who had helped us over time." It is also an opportunity to meet new friends in the neighborhood and refreshments are served. The Otero Family on Mulberry Street expressed their gratitude for the work and help. Ms. Otero noted, "The clean-up was wonderful and we even got a Christmas tree. We thank all the volunteers!"

Steve and Latoya Walker, who are two-year residents of Sulphur Springs, were volunteers in December. Steve Walker said, "We wanted to pay it forward



Pastors Carolyn Riggins and Curt McKay on Beautification Day



Steve & Latoya Walker, Community Volunteers

For More Information About Beautification Days...Please contact Curt McKay, SSNOP Resident Engagement Director at 813-443-2694 or Curt@ssnop.org.

SULPHUR SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD of PROMISE
Building a Brighter Future Together... Education. Career. Community.
Visit our website at www.ssnop.org to learn more.