

News Release

Board seeking nominations for inaugural Oakland County Outstanding African American Award

January 21, 2022, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – New for this year, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is seeking nominations for its 2022 Outstanding African American Award. In honor of African American History Month, commissioners will be awarding an outstanding African American resident of Oakland County who has taken strides to improve the community, made notable achievements or is otherwise worthy of recognition. The deadline for submissions is February 4.

“Historically, we have neglected to specifically honor the African Americans who have contributed to our county’s success,” Commissioner **Angela Powell** (D-Pontiac) said. “We wanted to create this award to ensure outstanding African Americans in our region are getting the recognition they deserve.”

The Board is accepting living nominees of all ages and backgrounds. They must be residents of Oakland County, and they can be well-established or unsung heroes. Individuals must be nominated by someone other than themselves.

“There are many ways to define ‘outstanding,’ and we are looking forward to exploring what that means to our diverse population,” Commissioner **Janet Jackson** (D-Southfield) said. “We encourage community members to nominate an African American in their lives who has made an impact in Oakland County.”

To nominate an outstanding African American, community members can complete the submission form at bit.ly/BOCAfAmAw. Nominators are also encouraged to email supporting documentation (such as a CV/résumé, news article, link to a professional portfolio, etc.) to boc@oakgov.com with the nominee's name in the subject line. **The deadline for submissions is February 4.**

“We are one Oakland County, and what makes us strong is the diversity of stories and backgrounds among our residents,” Commissioner **Yolanda Charles** (D-Southfield) said. “By honoring African Americans and members of the Black Diaspora, we’re showing that we stand by that belief.”

The winner will be notified of the award on or around February 14. They will be invited to attend (remotely or in-person) the full Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:30 a.m. on February 24, where they will be publicly announced as the winner and receive their recognition.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit www.oakgov.com/boc or call 248-858-0100.

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