

## CELEBRATING BLACK BUSINESS ADVOCACY

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PHOTO/IMAGES PROVIDED

Located in the heart of Walnut Hills, The Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky African American Chamber, got its' start meeting in local churches before moving to its' permanent home on Gilbert Avenue in 1999. Open and supportive of Black business, The African American Chamber is where preparation meets opportunity for its' members and supporters.

"It is symbolic because Walnut Hills is where some of the city's first black entrepreneurs opened up businesses, including places like the Mann's Hotel, The Cincinnati Herald and Major Federal Savings and Loan," Jim Clingman, founder of the organization, told The Cincinnati Enquirer in 1999.

For 20 years, The Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky African American Chamber has been on a mission to work with those in the African American business community and community at large to establish, cultivate, and strengthen consumer and business relationships; provide access to major corporate markets for members to help increase business opportunities; and assist in developing strategic partnerships and alliances for the purpose of strengthening The Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky African American Chamber community which covers 7 counties in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky. Members – businesses, forprofits. nonprofits -



engage in over 120 activities and events throughout the calendar year.

"We have approximately 300 members. Our membership is the largest that it has been. We are going to be at 500 before the end of year." Eric H. Kearney, President/CEO of The African American Chamber, shares with AboutGreaterCincinnati.com "We are the largest African American Chamber in the state of Ohio."

To celebrate the 20 year milestone and vision to be the premier advocate for African American businesses in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region, The African American

Chamber will be "Honoring the Past to Secure Our Future" at its' 20th Anniversary Gala on Saturday May 20 at the Sharonville Convention Center at 7pm. The black tie affair includes dinner and dancing.

"We are going to celebrate 6 new inductees into the Black Business Hall of Fame ..." shares Kearny. "We are going to acknowledge past presidents ..."

For information and gala tickets/details, go to <http://www.african-americanchamber.com>.

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