



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Rudolph Ferguson Sr.,

Candidate For Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 1

*Tallahassee, Florida* – Rudolph “Rudy” Ferguson Sr., a passionate and faithful member of our community, announces his candidacy for the Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 1. With a strong commitment to our neighborhoods and a vision for a better Tallahassee, Rudy Ferguson aims to bring positive change, effective leadership and consensus building to the city commission as Tallahassee faces serious challenges.

As a lifelong resident of Griffin Heights, one of the city’s lowest-income neighborhoods, Rudy understands day-to-day challenges and observes the effectiveness of public policy.

*“Top-to-bottom policy does not work. You must be on the ground, listening and seeing the issues firsthand. Only then, you can produce effective solutions.”* – Rudy Ferguson.

One of the primary goals of Rudy's campaign is to foster an inclusive, prosperous, and equitable city. Rudy believes that every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, should have equal access to opportunities and resources. By advocating for policies that promote fairness, Rudy intends to create a more harmonious and united Tallahassee.

Rudy also recognizes the importance of economic growth and sustainability for the city. Once elected, Rudy is committed to working with local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community organizations to develop policies that retain talent, attract investments, and ensure the long-term prosperity of Tallahassee. By prioritizing smart urban planning, affordable housing, and environmental stewardship, Rudy aims to build a city that is both economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable.

*“Lately, we have seen a lot of fighting, finger pointing and division in the City Commission. It is hurting us. Tallahassee needs a commissioner who will bring everyone to the table and find a middle ground.”* – Rudy Ferguson

Public safety is one of the key areas of focus for Rudy. Presently at the age of 51, he stands as a locally acclaimed figure in the field of crime prevention and addressing the needs of young people. Some of his recognitions include being appointed, by the late Governor Lawton Chiles, to the Board of Directors for the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence. Ferguson was also awarded the “Citizen of the Year” award from former Florida Attorney General Robert Butterworth, and he was most recently recognized as Honorary Deputy Sheriff by the Leon County Sheriff’s Office. Rudy has been, and will continue to work closely with law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and residents to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

*“We have heard enough. It is time to act. Tallahassee residents and businesses need solutions, and they need them now.”* – Rudy Ferguson

Rudy Ferguson invites you to join him in building a brighter future for the city. By supporting Rudy's campaign, citizens will be endorsing a candidate who is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsive governance. Together, Rudy wants to shape a Tallahassee that we can all be proud of.

## **Awards, Appointments and Recognitions**

In the summer of 1988, Mr. Ferguson joined the Tallahassee Urban League's Operation B.E.A.T.S. Program, showcasing his leadership skills at the age of 17. Recognizing his abilities, the Tallahassee Urban League appointed him as a peer counselor. Over the years, his experience and dedication enabled him to become a prominent and positive influence within the communities he served.

Governor Lawton Chiles took notice of Ferguson's commendable work and appointed him as the state's sole youth representative and Vice Chairman on the board of directors for the Florida Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute for Nonviolence. This appointment provided him with opportunities to speak on nonviolence at various national platforms, including the Season of Nonviolence conference held at the United Nations in New York. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was honored with the "Citizen of the Year" award by former Florida Attorney General Robert Butterworth.

Apart from his religious duties, Pastor Ferguson actively participates in several important roles within the community, including:

- Chairman of the Frontline Pastors Action Council
- Member and former chairman of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Faith Leaders Network
- Member of the Community Leadership Council on Gun Violence
- Member of the Tallahassee Human Relations Council
- Member of the Leon County Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Council
- Member of the Council on the Status of Men and Boys

Recently, he was the chairman of the Tallahassee Police Department's Citizen Advisory Council.

Throughout his extensive career spanning almost three decades, Ferguson has received numerous local and statewide accolades for his outstanding community service. Some of these include the 2015 Church of the Year award by Live Communications, Inc., being a top 5 finalist for the 2016 Person of the Year award presented by the Tallahassee Democrat, and receiving the African American Icon Award in 2016 presented by WTXL ABC 27. Additionally, he was honored with the Community Service Award in 2017 by the Significance Youth Conference, the 2018 Juneteenth Freedom Award by the Della Walker Chapter #86, and the Trailblazer Award by J.R.E. Lee, Sr., Chapter 422.

In 2019, he received the "Men Who Support Women" Award presented by the Leon County Democratic Women's Club.

Mr. Ferguson has been happily married to Katrina for 31 years, and together they have four adult children, Rachel (34), Rudy Jr. (30), Darrington (28), and Jacobe (24), as well as five wonderful grandchildren. He attributes his accomplishments to the unwavering support and strong family ties that have shaped his journey.