

## SOUTH WARD PERSPECTIVE

# It Takes a Village

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THE deceased former Councilman Donald K. Tucker. The longest serving councilman in the City's history, the Honorable Tucker also served as an assemblyman representing Newark and Hillside.



OSCAR S. JAMES II

To give tribute to his legacy and to show our young people some of their homegrown heroes, a mural was dedicated to the Hon. Tucker at The Centre, Inc. The Centre, Inc., Donald K. Tucker Complex is a non-profit multi-purpose community center founded in 1989. The basic goals and objectives are dedicated to the upward mobility of pre-schoolers, teenagers and adults.

This mural marks a prominent gateway to the South Ward on Elizabeth Avenue and it depicts the Hon. Tucker surrounded by images of young people throughout the City, with the words *It Takes a Village*

*to Raise a Child* emblazoned across the bottom. Those words represent one of the core beliefs that Councilman Tucker was passionate about, and the core value that I am most passionate about today.

I hope that as the City moves forward

with more projects such as this, our young people will utilize the heroes of the past as a light toward their future. In addition, providing creative outlets such as painting murals throughout the City, sports and recreational activities, and music helps to save our young people from a self-destructive path of violence, gangs and criminal activity.

I want to thank and commend the partners responsible for bringing this project to life: The Tucker Family, Groundswell Community Mural Project, City Without Walls, and The Centre Inc.

—Oscar S. James II,  
South Ward Councilman



Contact Councilman Oscar S. James II  
Phone: 973.733.3794  
Email: jameso@ci.newark.nj.us