

Hanifa G.N. Shabazz: Council Member Hanifa G.N. Shabazz is a native of Wilmington, who was raised on the Eastside. She was educated in the Wilmington public school system and is a graduate of Wilmington High School. Hanifa raised three daughters in the Southbridge section of Wilmington and educated them in the public school system.

An entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience, Council Member Shabazz brings a wealth of business knowledge to her representation of the Fourth District. She was the first to implement the Neighborhood Assistance Act where a non-profit organization receives a financial contribution from a corporation and that corporation receives the benefit of a 50% tax credit. She also addressed pressing economic empowerment issues, by developing the PAID Program, a 12-week intensive Preparatory Apprentice Instruction Development Program that assists individuals in successfully passing the various construction trade union entrance exams.

In an effort to make the neighborhood streets safer, she conceived the "Light Up the Fourth District" initiative that empowered the community to identify blown, dimming or obstructed street lights in their community. Council Member Shabazz addressed numerous complaints about downtown parking by convening a committee of parking and traffic authorities, plus members of the City's administration to take a comprehensive look at parking from a legal, logistics, customer service, and convenience perspective. The Parking Summit was attended by business owners, residents, and students.

Her latest efforts led to the development of the Southbridge Coalition for a Sustainable Community, which was the first neighborhood organization in Delaware to enter into a Community Benefit Agreement with a corporation moving into the neighborhood.

Nelson Widell: Nelson Widell is the Marketing and Sales Director and Co-Founder of the Peninsula Compost Company. Mr. Widell has over 30 years of experience in the composting industry and is a founding member of the US Composting Council. Mr. Widell also co-founded the Bedminster Bioconversion Company, which used an earlier generation composting system, and has developed and constructed 12 composting facilities in the United States and overseas using the patented Bedminster Bioconversion rotary drum process. Mr. Widell has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dickinson College.

Marvin P. Thomas: Marvin Thomas, a management analyst, recently retired with 30 years of state government service. Mr. Thomas graduated from Delaware State University with a degree in sociology. He did post graduate work at Bryn Mawr Graduate School of social work and received a Masters Degree in community organization and social welfare administration.

Mr. Thomas has worked in the field of human services for the past 30 years. Many of his efforts have been directed toward involvement with Wilmington's inner-city communities, focusing on South Wilmington and the lower Eastside. He spearheaded the construction of the Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, serves on the board of directors of the Neighborhood House Inc., and chaired the housing committee during Apple Square townhouse construction. He has been instrumental in getting developers to build additional housing in the community.

Mr. Thomas is president of the Southbridge Civic Association, a member of the Eastside/Southbridge neighborhood planning council, a member of the board of directors of the Riverfront Development Corporation, and participates in numerous community-based committees and organizations.

As president of the Southbridge Civic Association, Mr. Thomas works with residents of the community and with the city, county, state, and federal governments to develop a Special Area Management Plan to revitalize South Wilmington.

Mr. Thomas for the past 30 years has owned and operated a retail business in the city.