

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023

FLORIDA SENTINEL BULLETIN PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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Feature

Tavis Myrick:

# The Founder Of Gentlemen's Quest

BY MONIQUE STAMPS  
Sentinel Staff Writer



TAVIS MYRICK

Tavis Myrick is a rising star, a multi-faceted educator who mixes education and business to ensure the growth of the Black community.

Myrick's drive to educate Black children, especially young Black males, is garnering greater exposure as the Executive Director for Gentlemen's Quest.

The Gentlemen's Quest of Tampa, Inc., is dedicated to helping at-risk participants to realize their full potential. Every year, a new cohort of 25 male students are accepted to the program. Young men are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Life lessons, including a dress code, public speaking, and participating in activities that elevate them. Gentlemen's Quest has a 100% graduation rate, and a 100% transition rate as the grads entered college or the military.

"Our program has this level of success because of the structure of the program. Every GQ student must maximize their

opportunities. If we have a student that does not want to maximize their experience, we will invite another gentleman to take his place."

"Their lives depend on these opportunities, and we have to give them to youth that will put in the work because for some of them, their lives depend on it."

Founded by Myrick in 2014, Gentlemen's Quest represents perhaps the most public image of Myrick, but it would be a mistake to think that is his sole passion.

Born in Ft. Pierce, FL, Myrick always loved education, but it was in second grade that he knew he would be a teacher. His teacher, Mrs. Brabble, would teach Myrick the next day's lesson. Myrick would then teach the math class for the day.

That exposure to education fed Myrick and nourished his desire to teach.

In high school, Myrick became a dual-degree student, graduating with an AA degree in addition to his High School diploma.

Myrick moved to Tampa to attend the University of South Florida. He decided on a sociology major.

"The most important thing that I gained was the ability to interact with others. It wasn't my smarts. That is what sociology is all about, studying behavior of people."

He continued his education at the University of Tampa, receiving a master's degree in mathematics education.

Myrick also received an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership.

Myrick has held many positions in education, including administrative and teaching roles at Tampa Bay Tech and Freedom High School.

A strong Christian, Myrick and his wife, Nicole, attend Center for Manifestation where he is the Director of Education at Manifestations Worldwide Inc.

"My goal is to create programs that can take away excuses that people have to prevent them from being successful."

"While I am known for Gentlemen's Quest, I ran many programs through the church. I am grateful to serve a Pastor who does everything he can to support our endeavors. Pastor has been incredibly supportive as I produced program after program.

Myrick also has an LLC called Myrick & Associates LLC, which provides consultations, tax preparation, business mentoring, and grant writing. It's a family affair, Nicole Myrick is now offering real estate consulting under the LLC.

For more information on Gentlemen's Quest, visit: <https://gqtampa.com>.

# Agencies Join Forces To Make 4 Families Become Homeowners



Shown at the "House Blessings" on 48<sup>th</sup> St. for 4 first-time homeowners were: Mayor Jane Castor, City Council member Gwen Henderson, State Rep. Dianne Hart, City Councilman Alan Clendenin, David Alona, Linda Porter (CDC Board Member), Ursela Bell ( Realtor), Homeowner, Brandi Beard and her daughter, Ernest Coney (CEO/President, CDC of Tampa, Inc.), Chole Coney (founder), Michael Smith, Keto Nord, City Councilwoman Lynn Hurtak, Julio Genera, and Alan Borden.



The House Blessing was held at 3008 48<sup>th</sup> St.

The CDC of Tampa, City of Tampa, Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Fifth Third Bank joined forces to make affordable homeownership a reality for 4 families. The "House Blessings" were held Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 3008 N. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Tampa.

Making homeownership widely available is a critical component to building a strong and prosperous community. Through the collaborative partnership investment (totaling

\$1,498,696) - CDC of Tampa, City of Tampa, CRA and Fifth Third Bank helped 4 families overcome barriers to housing.

• Fifth Third Bank provided \$45K to CDC of Tampa for development.

• City of Tampa provided "Community Housing Development Organization" subsidy of \$99,750 per house.

• CRA paid \$180K for infrastructure improvements for water and sewer line upgrades. (Photos courtesy of CDC of Tampa)

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### Local Events

## Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Konclave To Feature Concert With Grammy Award Winner Anthony Hamilton And Special Guest Tamia

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's 86th Grand Chapter Meeting started on Tuesday, July 19, 2023 in Downtown Tampa. To celebrate, the fraternity is hosting a concert that is open to the public starring Grammy Award Winner **Anthony Hamilton** with Special Guest **Tamia**.

**Anthony Hamilton** is coming to sing all of his hits: "Charlene", "Best of Me", "Comin' From Where I'm From", "Can't Let Go" and so many more selections!

**Tamia** is coming and will have everyone dancing to "Can't Get Enough". Her presence will ensure a good time for all of us! This celebration takes place on Thursday, July



ANTHONY HAMILTON

20, 2023, at Steinbrenner Field. The doors open at 5:30 p. m., with a start time of 7:00 p. m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Too Smooth: 'Laughter Is Good For The Soul'

BY GWEN HAYES  
Sentinel Editor

**Too Smooth** of Too Smooth Entertainment, has been bringing comedy shows to the Tampa Bay area for several years. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the nation, like most indoor event, his comedy shows were nearly shut down. He was able to put on a show here and there.

Now, he's trying to come back strong. This weekend, Saturday, July 22, 2023, he be hosting 4 Christian comedians from BET and Def Comedy Jam - **Big Daddy Laugh A Lot, Darian Perkins, Ms. Dovie, and Terry 'T' Harris** - for his *When The Saints Come Laughing Christian Comedy Jam*. This event, full of laughter for the whole family will be held at Chamberlain High School, 9401 N. Blvd. Doors open at 5, the show starts promptly at 6 P.M.

"The Saints have been saying there's nothing for them



TOO SMOOTH

to do, or nowhere to go," **Too Smooth** said. "I heard their cry and now I want to fill that void through clean laughter. The Bible speaks of laughter being good for the soul - laughter is like medicine. The shows I bring in are good for the entire family, which means parents can bring their children to enjoy as well," he continued.

**Too Smooth** is hoping that this Christian Comedy Jam will be the birth of other Christian events that he hopes to bring to the city.

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