

## **VESTAL ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL**

**11018 Arborwood Drive**

**Cincinnati, Ohio, 45251**

Tony was born in the Republic of Panama. He and his wife migrated to the US in 1968. Volunteering is a way of life for Tony and his wife. They restrict their time to those organizations whose policy provides opportunities that improve quality of life for individuals, their families and their communities.

### **Current Community Involvement**

- Commissioner – Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
- Local Board Member of United States Selective Service System
- Board of Trustee of OKI Regional Council of Governance
- Board Member of the FBI Citizen Academy Foundation, Treasurer
- Member of the Clippard Family YMCA Board of Directors
- Founding member and Former Treasurer of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cincinnati
- Member of LULAC of Greater Cincinnati Board of Directors, Treasurer
- Member of the City of Cincinnati Police Community Preventive Education Committee
- Member of Cincinnati Public School Early Childhood Education Policy Council
- Member of the FBI & US Attorney Office for Southern District of Ohio Multi-Cultural Advisory Council
- Associate Member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association

### **Past Community Involvement**

- Member of Cincinnati Contract Compliance Advisory Council
- Board of Trustee of Santa Maria Community Services
- Commissioner of the Minority Development Finance Commission
- Volunteer Coach for the Cincinnati Reds Rookie Success League
- Chair, Santa Maria's Buen Estar Annual Conference/Awards/Luncheon Committee
- Member of WCPO-TV Community Advisory Board
- Member of Shroder Paideia Academy LSDMC
- Finance Committee – Christ Church Cathedral
- Board of Directors of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency
- Chair, CHCAA Human Resources Committee
- Chairman of the Hispanic Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Bien Estar Advisory Committee (Latino Affairs)
- Drop-in-Center Volunteer
- Chair, OCHLA Finance Committee
- Co-Chair Cincinnati Public School Maintenance Task Force (Bill Sykes, SB)
- A Founding member of the African American Chamber of Commerce
- Member of LULAC Statewide Board of Directors, Treasurer

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- Board member of the Hamilton County Mental Health Board
- Member of the United Way Finance Committee
- Chairman of the Hispanic Republican Party-Hamilton
- Su Casa Annual Awards/Dinner committee
- Board Member of the Head Start/Early Childhood Education Policy Committee
- Pro bono translator in Northern Kentucky and Ohio Courts
- Co-Chair of Council at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall St. – New York City
- Commissioner of the Minority Development Finance Commission
- Guest Lecturer at ITT College Economics Class
- Guest Speaker at University of Cincinnati Hispanic Week Celebration
- Guest Speaker at Central State University Hispanic Week Celebration
- Several speaking engagements include but not limited to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Postal Service Bulk Mailing Department
- Served as panelist at Christ Church Cathedral (with Secretary of State Ken Blackwell); the University of Northern Kentucky and at the Underground Railroad Museum
- Commissioner of the Minority Development Finance Commission
- Sponsored the Boy Scout Programs at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall St.
- Active in local PTA as President
- Brooklyn Lions Club and Crown Heights Jaycees(Rep. Ed Towns was also member)
- Founding member and first Chairman of the East Flatbush Friends of Education
- Volunteer instructor for the Vita Program for the IRS – Cincinnati
- Member of the ILT & LSDMC Robert Padilla Academy – Cincinnati
- Cooked for the Senior Home Program known today as Mercy Health Partners-St. John
- Volunteer at the Boys and Girl Club

## **EDUCATION**

Holds a BA in Accounting.

## **AWARDS**

Inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame on October 13, 2011. Some of the other awards received are: The 2013 Bridges For A Just Community Distinguished Service Citation; The YMCA Achievers Awards of Excellence 2012; 2011 African American Chamber Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Recognition Award. 2010 Su Casa Lifetime Service Award; The 2010 Cincinnati USA Hispanic Chamber Community Award: National Association of Social Workers State of Ohio Chapter Public Citizen of the Year Award 2009; National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter-Region VI Public Citizen Award 2009; The Santa Maria Community services Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award; The 2007 LULAC Community Award; Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan by the OHCHLA with recognition by the governor and the legislative branch; HCC 2004 Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year; Hispanic Chamber of Greater Cincinnati, Outstanding Service Award from the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board; USA Founding Member Recognition Award Postal Services 'Heritage and Horizons on the African Legacy; The Challenges of the 21st Century; Meyer Levin JHS 285 and East Flatbush Friends of Education for outstanding services in the community; 67th PCT Senior Citizen Center Service Award; The Dedicators, Inc. for service in the community with actor John Amos; Lions Club Family Award and from the Community School Superintendent, District 18 in Brooklyn, N. Y. Holds the Commission of Colonel on the Staff of the Governor of Kentucky in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonel. While living in Panama, he received several honorariums from the National Guard (PUMA) under the Torrijos/Martinez leadership at the Tocumen Garrison.

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