

Dr. Lawanna Owens-Twaites, Educator ~ City Councilmember ~ Inspirational & Motivational Speaker. Dr. Lawanna Owens-Twaites began her Christian journey in March, 1983. She is a native of the Bronx in New York City and is blessed to be married to Craig R. Twaites. Lawanna has been blessed with two daughters, who are now adults, and she most recently served as a foster mother. Professionally, Lawanna has worked in advertising and as an educator. She has been an educator for 33 years, serving as an administrator, district director, and teacher. She currently serves as a schoolwide instructional coach for literacy. As an educator, she has passionately led many initiatives that have left an indelible imprint on the lives of students and colleagues. As a graduate school professor, she has been instrumental in assisting teachers as they pursue a path in higher education. She has worked closely with several ministries, which include the Women's ministry, as well as the Children's ministry at the Stonecrest Church of Christ. She has spoken at various ladies' programs and retreats. Most recently, Lawanna has become involved in the political arena due to a family decision to relocate to a new neighborhood. As she became settled in her new community, she soon became aware of various standards of service that she considered inequitable. As a result, she sought a meeting with the Mayor of the city, and this meeting led to her political journey. Lawanna was encouraged to run for the position of City Council, and the November election was cancelled because she ran unopposed. Lawanna will be sworn in on January 18, 2022. She is excited about collaboratively leading a city of over 25,000 people. Lawanna is currently a member of her city's political organization, and she uses her spare time to attend workshops, trainings, and city council meetings. She has her sights set on expanding her political service to support the disenfranchised while impacting many for the sake of Christ. Her goal is to ensure that all marginalized people are provided with high-quality education and positive community development, which leads to strong communities. Lawanna believes that God expects us all to use our talents and abilities to HIS glory. She is driven by the following scripture: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" Proverbs 31:8-9.