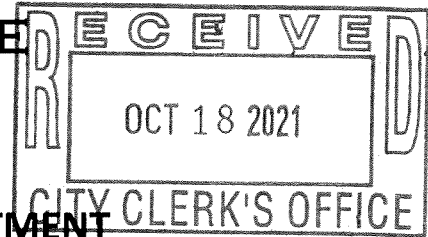




CITY OF FORT PIERCE

100 NORTH US HWY 1
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34950
(772) 467-3065 FAX (772) 467-3841



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

Name of Board or Boards for which you are applying: _____

Name: <i>Lonis M. Jefferson</i>	Phone: <i>(772) 672-1179</i>
Home Address: <i>2300 Valencia Ave</i> City/Zip Code: <i>Fort Pierce 34946</i>	How long at this address? <i>6 yrs</i>
Are you a citizen of the United States? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Occupation: <i>Retired Educator</i>	
Do you own a business that operates within the City of Fort Pierce? If yes, list the address and nature of said business: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you now or in the future plan to do business with the City of Fort Pierce? If yes, in what capacity? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Are you employed by a business that is located within the City of Fort Pierce? If yes, state the business and location: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you have special training or knowledge in the area of: Architecture: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Engineering: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Real Estate Brokering: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Contracting: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Land Development: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Other: Describe your education, background, training and knowledge – (feel free to attach a resume):	
Are you currently a member of a Commission-appointed board/committee? If yes, please specify: <i>Parks and Recreation</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If yes, what was the nature of the crime(s) you were convicted of: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Referred by:	Applicant Email Address: <i>honeydrop3199@gmail.com</i>
Date:	Applicant's Signature: <i>M. Jefferson</i>

APPLICATIONS EXPIRE 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION. PLEASE REAPPLY AS OFTEN AS DESIRED.
Please return form to: City Clerk's Office – 100 North US Hwy 1, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
fax (772) 467-3841 or via email at lcox@cityoffortpierces.com

IONIS JEFFERSON-KNOWLES STORY

I am Ionis M. Jefferson-Knowles, born on September 13, 1957, to Robert and Zanobia B. Jefferson. I am one of four girls born to this union, and I have one brother who is deceased. We grew up in Paradise Park which could be considered upper middle class in the Lincoln Park area of St. Lucie County.

As a native of Fort Pierce, Florida, I attended both public and private school. During my early years of education, I attended St. Anastasia Catholic School until 8th grade. For grades 9th, 11th, and 12th grade, I attended public school and was honored to have my father as my principal and my mother as my art teacher. Because of integration, however, my 10th grade year was the only time I attended public school without my parents working at my school. After graduating from Fort Pierce Central High School with honors, I continued my education by attending Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, and receiving a degree in Art Education with a minor in Aquatics in 1979. Later I attended the University of Miami and began working on a master's degree in Educational Leadership.

After graduating from Southern University, I accepted my first job at Indian River State College working from 1980-81 in the Agricultural and Labor Migrant Program as a counselor. I was responsible for helping to recruit and enroll students in school to further their education or receive vocational training. In addition to recruiting students to become part of the program, I also taught "Life Skills" to help students transition to and understand other employment opportunities outside of agriculture. Being passionate about education and wanting to work in my field of study, I later accepted a job in 1980 in Miami, Florida teaching Art Education at Edison Middle School. After three years I relocated back to Fort Pierce after the death of my father.

Although the death of my father was devastating, joy came when several months later, I gave birth to my only son DeForest Swoope Jr. and two years later to my daughter Rahmia Z. Swoope.

Through encouragement and knowing the love that both my parents had for the betterment of our community, I decided that I would become a part of community involvement. Recognizing a different vision than what my parents understood community involvement was, it became my passion to protect children of color at the predominant white high school in which I was forced to teach. Many parents could not or would not drive from one side of the county to the next, so I became the spokesperson. I believe that is when I really understood the difference in my parents vision participation and mine, but, yet they were focused on the same outcome. We all just approached them differently and with a different mindset. I was more outspoken, less tolerant of mistreatment of others, and willing to "powerfully" stand my ground on what I believed.

As I have grown, I am still vocal in any undertaking I do, however, I am able to hear other opinions, consider other ideas, and to keep my focus on making a change in my community. I

consider myself as a giving person, although sometimes the giving and caring can become exhausting. I like to confront issues with focus on reaching a solution and not allowing the situation to fester into a greater problem.

I have had several situations that could have adversely affected my life, but those curve balls have made me a stronger person by never giving up nor feeling like a victim. In addition to the death of my parents and brother, shortly after I retired in June 2019, my second husband, John Knowles, died suddenly. My first husband, De Forrest Sr. and I divorced in 1972, shortly afterward my daughter was diagnosed as legally blind after almost losing her in the hospital. My son was accidentally shot and almost died. Despite all this, I learned to hold my head up, no matter the storm, knowing that I am a survivor.

During these curves in life, I spent 39.5 years with the St. Lucie County School Board, was given the honor of being chosen Teacher Of The Year, Employee Of The Year with my part-time job at New Horizons, Community Leader Award for the Herions Of Jericho, and numerous other awards. My association with the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Buffalo Soldier Motorcycle Club, Community Mobilization Team, Paradise Park Home Owners' Association, American Red Cross-Certified, and Girl Scout Of America Leader have afforded me an opportunity to use my expertise in art and in community mobilization and life coaching. My recent acceptance in the Fellowship Program for the Common Good Team will equip me with additional skills for effective communication and strategies for assisting others in mapping their lives for success.

So what keeps me focused and driven? There is an old saying that I often think about and try to apply to my everyday living: "We think we have all the time in the world but time won't give us time. So, therefore, do the best you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, everywhere you can, as long as you ever can." Storms never last for forever!

IONIS JEFFERSON-KNOWLES

**2300 Valencia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34946
(772) 672-1179**

Husband: Late John Knowles
Children: Deforrest Swoope, Jr., Rahmia Z. Swoope
Grandchildren:
Parents: Late Robert and Zanobia Jefferson

CHURCH AFFILIATIONS

EDUCATION AFFILIATIONS

Graduate of Fort Pierce Central High School, Fort Pierce, Florida
Graduate B. S. Degree Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA (1979) With Honors
Masters Degree – Additional Studies, University Of Miami 1982)
Fellowship For The Common Good Team (2019-2020)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Retired after 39.5 years with the St. Lucie County School Board, Fort Pierce, FL
3 years Edison Middle School, Miami, Florida – Middle School Art Teacher
Counselor in the Agricultural and Labor Migrant Program (1980-81)
New Horizons

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

I LEAP
AMERICAN RED CROSS
AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (SHERIFF DEPARTMENT)
TOYS FOR TOTS
UNITED WAY “STUFF THE BUS”

ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Eta Omega Chapter
Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club
Community Mobilization Team
Paradise Park Homeowners' Association
Girl Scouts Of America
Kids At Hope

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