



**CITY OF ALBANY  
COMMON COUNCIL**  
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**\* \* NEWS RELEASE \* \***

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**Albany Common Council Hosts  
African American History Month Celebration Virtually  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:30p.m.**

**ALBANY, NY** – The Albany Common Council invites you to attend their annual African American History Month Celebration virtually, Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:30p.m. We welcome you to join us by watching on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/albany.commoncouncil>, or subscribe to our YouTube channel to watch: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-rQHpfBLPcdk\\_4N6J4XbQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-rQHpfBLPcdk_4N6J4XbQ).

This year's Common Council's African American History Month Celebration will celebrate the following honorees:

**James Campbell Matthews, Albany Law School's first alumnus who can be identified with certainty as African American selected by Hon. Corey Ellis, Council President**

**Lauren Manning, Assistant Director, Center for Law and Justice selected by Ward 4 Hon. Kelly Kimbrough, President Pro Tempore**

**Marie Campbell, Founder of Blooms by Marie selected by Ward 13 Hon. Ginnie Farrell, Majority Leader**

**Destini Harris, Cofounder of E.L.E.V.A.T.E 518 selected by Ward 1 Hon. Sonia Frederick**

**Ernestine White selected by Ward 2 Hon. Derek Johnson**

**Ricja Rice - Ghyll, Esq., Albany City Court, Trial Part selected by Ward 3 Hon. Joyce Love**

**Tabora Marcus selected by Ward 5 Hon. Jahmel Robinson**

**Ken Screven, Retired News Anchor selected by Ward 6 Hon. Richard Conti**

**LeQuana Ham selected by Ward 7 Hon. Catherine M. Fahey**

**Damarise Mann, Director of Foster Care and Adoption Programs at Northern Rivers Family Services selected by Ward 8 Hon. Jack Flynn**

**LaVonda Collins, Esq. selected by Ward 9 Hon. Judy Doesschate**

**Gladys Lewis selected by Ward 10 Hon. Owusu Anane**

**Sarah Hines selected by Ward 11 Hon. Alfredo Balarin**

**Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk selected by Ward 12 Hon. Michael O'Brien**

**Hon. Christina Ryba, Albany County Supreme Court selected by Ward 14 Hon Joseph Igoe**

**Yasser Teouri, Student at University at Albany selected by Ward 15 Hon Tom Hoey**

**For more information about the Albany Common Council or to find out who your Council person, please visit the website at: <https://www.albanyny.gov/189/Common-Council>**