



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 2, Hartford, CT 06103
Promoting Equality and Justice for all People

JOSEPH M. SUGGS, JR.

COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHY

Joseph M. Suggs, Jr. continues a successful career spanning over three decades in both the public and private sectors. As the founder of Suggs Consulting Group LLC, he responded to the regional need for senior housing by securing approval for the first active adult housing community in Bloomfield Connecticut. Mr. Suggs has served on the University of Hartford Board of Regents, Vice President of the Work Bank, Chairman of the Saint Francis Hospital Community Advisory Committee and was twice honored by the NAACP as among the 100 most influential Blacks in Connecticut. In the public sector, Mr. Suggs was Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut and has held a number of other elected and appointed positions.

As treasurer from 1993 to 1995, he was sole trustee of the \$10 Billion dollar retirement and Trust fund which earned a record \$1.0 billion in 1993. He successfully invested in Connecticut businesses and created hundreds of new jobs through the Treasury's \$150 million dollar Connecticut Programs Fund. During his tenure he also served as national Co-Chairman of the Council of Institutional Investors, a nonprofit organization focusing on corporate governance. As a result of his leadership he was the recipient of the Residents Award from the Northeast Treasures Association in 1994 and remains involved in the Association and securities industry. Mr. Suggs was a member of the State Banking Commission, Bond Commission, the Finance Advisory Committee and many other bodies of state authority.

In 1989, Mr. Suggs became the first African American Mayor of Bloomfield Connecticut and the first of any suburban community in Greater Hartford. He made educational excellence and economic growth the top priorities of his administration. During his tenure as Mayor, town services improved while property taxes remained stable. In the private sector, Mr. Suggs retired after 27 years with the St. Louis based Monsanto Corporation. While at Monsanto, he was responsible for supervising laboratory testing of new plastic materials

for the food packaging market. Most notably, Mr. Suggs was instrumental in developing the popular (P.E.T.) plastic bottles now widely used in the soft drink and water bottle industry.

In addition to his extensive public and private sector experience, Mr. Suggs is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during the Vietnam era and a former television host on WVIT-TV Black Perspective program. Mr. Suggs earned a BS degree from the University of Hartford and is the recipient of numerous awards and citations.