

Biography

Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith

Council representative Treska Wilson-Smith, serving Ward 1, was elected to office in November 2010. Her term began on January 1, 2011. Ward 1 includes Blandford and the eastern section of Petersburg bordering Crater Road and Fort Lee.

Ms. Wilson-Smith, the eldest of six children, was born in Chestertown, Maryland, to the late Oneil H. Wilson (from Maryland) and Delores Clarke Wilson (a native of Petersburg). She completed her secondary education in the Petersburg Public School System and was in the first graduating class of Petersburg High School after the forced integration of schools in 1971. Ms. Wilson-Smith graduated from Virginia State University with honors in 1997, completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work. She is also an accomplished writer of poems and plays.

Ms. Wilson-Smith is married to Larry "Akin" Smith. They have five children (Jasmine, Jon, Kendall, Kamau, and Jumeye) and thirteen grandchildren.

For many years, Ms. Wilson-Smith has been a community activist for youth and the residents of Petersburg. She marched alone in front of City Hall carrying a sign that demanded: Give More of the Dollar to the Petersburg Scholar. Her tenacity was rewarded with victory as city council voted to allocate complete local funding requested by the school system. Other local campaigns have included soliciting support of a centrally located youth center, creation of a parent coordinator position and implementation of school uniforms. Statewide, Ms. Wilson-Smith has lobbied the General Assembly to support school uniforms and has written a proposed humanities bill which would prevent elderly and low-income citizens from losing access to utilities during critical times.

Ms. Wilson-Smith's civic activities include service as:

- Head Girl Scout Leader, largest troop in Petersburg
- Recipient, Legacy Award issued by the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council
- Founding member, Petersburg Advocates for Children (PAC)
- Member, Special Education Advisory Board
- Past Chair, Annual Juneteenth Celebration in Petersburg
- Honored by Girl Scout Commonwealth Council in October 2008 for the Legacy Award
- Honored by Girl Scout Commonwealth Council in March 2012 for the Adult Leadership Award.
- Member of the National League of Cities
- Member of the Virginia Municipal League
- Chaired the first ever Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things Celebration.
- Woman of the Year in the field of education, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Former Girl Scout Service Unit Director

- Former Cub Scout Master
- Former member of the National Association Negro Business and Professional Women
- Former member of the Board of Directors of Sycamore Rouge
- Past chair of the National Children's Day Celebration
- Retired Support Coordinator for Southside Virginia Training Center
- Selected by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Omega Zeta Chapter, as a 'Community Pearl' for the chapter's Signature Program, "The Finer Womanhood Celebration."
- Since being on council Mrs. Wilson-Smith has initiated the, 1- 'You Have My Attention' Series, where she meets with citizens at various places throughout the city during the summer. 2- Making Rounds - Ms. Wilson-Smith drives the streets in the ward and reports her findings on a weekly basis. 3- Weekly contact - Ms. Wilson-Smith sends out "The Week Ahead" and "The Council Communique" to over 600 people on her e-mail listing every week.