



Deborah Walker

February 24, 2017

Deborah Walker, previously known to many as “Officer Walker” was a dedicated, hardworking professional with twenty (20) years’ experience in law enforcement and ten years as a Higher Education administrator.

In 1973, upon graduating from George Westinghouse High School, Deborah started a career in law enforcement in 1983 with the University of Pittsburgh Police Department where she obtained a position as a security guard. Within six months of working in the department, Deborah was promoted to the position of police officer and began training at the Allegheny County Police Academy where she graduated in May 1984.

In 1999, Deborah was promoted to the position of Community Relations/Crime Prevention Specialist. As the department’s Community Relations Officer, she developed and managed programs such as Operation Campus Watch (OCW), a crime prevention program that provided an environment that enabled students, faculty, staff, and the Pitt police to collaborate in their efforts toward a safe campus. Because of this program, the campus crime rate decreased. In addition, Officer Walker served as the coordinator for the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s “Adopt-a-School Program” and is acknowledged for establishing the “Crime Tip of the Month” for the Pitt News and a Resource Center for the Pitt Police Department.

After serving as a law enforcement officer, Deborah accepted a new position at Pitt in 2003 as the Assistant Director of Community Standards for the Office of Resident Life. Her responsibilities included monitoring the conduct and behavior issues that existed among the 5,200 students that reside in eleven residence halls. In November 2007, Deborah was promoted to the position of Student Conduct Officer for the University of Pittsburgh and was appointed as the Director for Reaching Inside Your Soul for Excellence (R.I.S.E.) a retention program for underrepresented students. Under Deborah's leadership, the retention and graduation rates for underrepresented students in the program increased.

February 2014, the City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto appointed Deborah as Director of the Office of Municipal Investigations (OMI). As the Director, Deborah manages sixteen staff responsible for ensuring the analysis and investigation of citizen complaints of civil and/or criminal misconduct alleged against employees of the City of Pittsburgh.

Deborah holds two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh: a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Policy Management. In addition, Deborah is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Deborah Walker is dedicated to serving the community and has volunteered with organizations such as, American's Promise, the Urban League of Pittsburgh's Campaign for African American Achievement, the FBI Adopt a School Program, the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations and the University Of Pittsburgh Alumni Board of Directors.

In 2010, Pittsburgh City Council appointed Deborah to the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) as a law enforcement specialist where she served as

the board chair. In 2011, Deborah was elected to serve as the President of the University of Pittsburgh Staff Association Council (SAC) a council that represents nearly 7,000 University staff. In July 2012, Deborah was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett to serve as a Commissioner on the Governors Commission on African-American Affairs.

Her achievements include the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Advocacy Volunteer of the Year Award, the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award, the Pittsburgh Pirates African American Heritage Day Award, the Urban League of Pittsburgh 2003 Ronald Harmon Brown Civic Leadership Award, the 2003 Trailblazers Award, "Top 50 Women of Influence" by the New Pittsburgh Courier, and the American Society for Industrial Security Law Enforcement Award. In addition, Deborah was inducted into the Westinghouse High School Hall of Fame. In 2001, she was awarded the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award from the University of Pittsburgh, where she was the first University union employee to receive such an honor. In July 2010, Deborah was selected as a presenter to the Oxford Round Table in Oxford England for her research topic, "Responding to Crime at an Urban-Based Research University".

Deborah is an accomplished presenter and has traveled both nationally and internationally speaking on topics such as the intersection of higher education and law enforcement and the retention of underrepresented students.

Cemetery Details

Restland Memorial Park

990 Patton Street Ext.
Monroeville, PA 15146

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church
271 Paulson Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Funeral Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church
271 Paulson Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tribute Wall

LR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Loreen Reed - May 05, 2017 at 08:26 AM

AW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. May the loving memories you share and God's Word comfort you at this difficult time. - Revelation 21:3,4

Aw - March 08, 2017 at 06:40 PM



“ Sincerest Sorrow - All Pink was purchased for the family of Deborah Walker.



March 01, 2017 at 09:23 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Deborah Walker.



March 01, 2017 at 10:36 AM

JC

“ I will miss your friendship and playing golf with you hope to see you again in heaven!!!

James & Paula Cox

James Cox - February 28, 2017 at 07:34 PM

RC

“ To all of us who knew and loved Deborah, we have lost a rare treasure. By living her Christian faith on a daily basis, she positively impacted the lives of thousands of people. She was the consummate police officer while serving on the University of Pittsburgh Police Department. She was polite, fair and firm. And in her position in Student Affairs, she always approach every matter from the perspective of what was in the best interest of the student(s), even if it meant implementing difficult decisions impacting the student(s) and/or the University. And, I know, she approached her City responsibilities from that same perspective of fairness.

Rest In Peace my friend. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Renny Clark

Retired Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff

University of Pittsburgh

Reynolds Clark - February 28, 2017 at 11:28 AM

CP

“ There are no words sufficient to describe the feeling of loss. Deborah Walker's life and accomplishments will continue to inspire generations to come. Deepest sympathy to the family.

Constance A Portis - February 28, 2017 at 09:36 AM