

# C R A I G P O W E L L

Visionary Leader, Social Entrepreneur, Community Organizer

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## BIOGRAPHIC INTRODUCTION

Craig has taken on as his personal and professional mission the challenge of improving the quality of life within urban communities by facilitating the psychosocial and economic reintegration of persons with, and at risk of, criminal records. Upon his 2001 return to Dayton Ohio from New York City (where he provided technical assistance to CBOs on behalf of NYS Department of Health and operated a residential construction company) he took a lead role in creating a comprehensive, strength-based, countywide ex-offender reentry initiative in Montgomery County, Ohio. In 2002, he founded PowerNet of Dayton that provides pre- and post-release rehabilitation, reentry and re-integration services; housing and employment services; community organizing and systemic change advocacy. Mr. Powell is the author of PowerNet's GEM Leadership Development Program that begins 2-3 years prior to an inmate's release from prison and continues 2-3 years after their release. As a direct result of these and other local efforts, the rate of recidivism and other systemic barriers affecting ex-offenders were reduced in the county.

Mr. Powell has been a presenter at several state and national reentry conferences. He has been a consultant with community based reentry initiatives from Los Angeles California to New York City including Montgomery County Ohio during its initial organizing and planning efforts that eventually led its first Office of Ex-offender Reentry. Mr. Powell has served two elected terms on the Southwest Priority Board. He was appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to serve two three-year terms on the statewide Community Corrections Advisory Board. In 2004, he was also appointed to ODRC's statewide Citizen Circle Advisory Board. He served on the Advisory Board of National College, Kaplan College and the Miami Valley Child Development Centers Policy Council in Dayton. Mr. Powell is a current member of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Black Advisory Council and the Tampa Bay Black Chamber of Commerce. He is the current Chair of the Hillsborough County (HC) Ex-offender Reentry Network, a member of the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative Executive Planning Committee and a graduate of the HC Sheriff's Office Citizen Academy. ODRC presented Mr. Powell with its 2005 Gold Star Award "for exemplary efforts in promoting Quality Corrections in Ohio." In September 2006, Mr. Powell's leadership in the field of reentry was recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation by inviting him to be among a select team of practitioners to discuss and evaluate the barriers, resources and strategies related to the role of faith in successful reentry. Mr. Powell also accepted an invitation to be a guest lecturer at the Indiana University AIM Program Adult Reentry Institute held November 6-10, 2006. In 2007, Mr. Powell accepted an invitation from The Council of State Governments to participate on a national advisory group of reentry professionals to develop a policy guide for improving collaborations between state governments and CBOs. Under his leadership, PowerNet received the Dayton Correctional Institution's 2007 Volunteer Organization of the Year Award as well as the 2008 and 2014 SCLC's "Martin Luther King Community Service Award". Mr. Powell has been trained and certified in the following: Core Correctional Practices (2011) and Women's Risk Needs Assessment (2013) from the Univ. of Cincinnati Criminal Justice Institute and the Ohio Risk Assessment System (2017) and Thinking for a Change (2017) from the Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Mr. Powell believes he has been preparing from birth and assigned for life to the awesome and rewarding challenge of identifying, investigating and addressing the root systemic causes of the psychosocial and economic deprivation experienced by so many individuals and families struggling to live within America's urban communities. Although most refer to his work as ex-offender reentry; it is so much more! His message to all who will listen and engage is: You Don't Have to Move to Live in A Better Neighborhood!