

## Eric E. Reaves

Eric E. Reaves a forty-year resident of Gary's Miller Neighborhood and is President of the Miller Citizens Corporation (MCC). Eric's interest in business and entrepreneurship began early; at fourteen he asked for and received subscriptions to Fortune and Forbes magazines. An early desire to own his own business in Gary resulted in the first Jet Ski rental business on the southern shores of Lake Michigan, a four-star Mexican restaurant, and several other local partnerships and businesses. Not limiting himself to Gary he co-owned a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Shop in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

Mr. Reaves has an extensive background in the retail and foodservice industries recently serving as Director of Operations/ Sales for Infinity Customer Solutions with Fortune 500 clients such as Pepsi, Barnes & Noble, Darden Restaurants, (Olive Garden, Red Lobster), YUM Brands (Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC) Food Lion and McDonalds.

In his only departure from the food and retail industries Eric honed his skills in Corporate America as an executive in the billion-dollar Hair Care Industry. In his first corporate position he worked with principles of companies such as Albeto-Culver, Wella, Soft Sheen, Revlon and Paul Mitchell learning the nuances and strategic maneuvers of the corporate boardroom.

Currently Mr. Reaves is on the Marquette Park East Project Advisory Board and Sub-Committee, Miller Business Association, Commissioner for Gary Redevelopment Commission and Founder of the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District Initiative. Mr. Reaves is also Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Task Force Committee for Democratic Nominee for Gary, IN Karen Freeman Wilson.

Eric is a self-taught photographer who captures nature's beauty through the lens. Often asked, "how do you take such great photos?" his response is "I just capture what God has created He does the hard part, creating it" Living in Miller Beach provides an ever changing palette supplying a kaleidoscope of color and grandeur.

Eric began shooting in August 2008 after receiving a camera for his birthday. Photography was always something he wanted to do since childhood but always put it off. Photography started out as a hobby and has quickly become a passion of his. His critically acclaimed "new" work opens bi-annually at local Gallery Art Shows.

Eric does not believe in "we can't" and always asks the question "**how can** we do it?"