

ZAKARIYYA ABDUR-RAHMAN

Zakariyya Abdur-Rahman was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pa. He graduated from Martin Luther King High School, and later served six years in United States Armed Forces. He has attended the Temple University Fox School of Business, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He and his wife have two children and five grandchildren.

Zakariyya is the Founder; President/CEO of Z & Z Distributors Inc., located in the historic Nicetown section of Philadelphia since 1995. Z&Z Distributors is licensed by the City of Philadelphia, and is the only African-American snack and beverage wholesaler in Philadelphia . His family works together running the business as a team, providing excellent customer service to hundreds of business outlets as well as five charter schools in the City of Philadelphia. In 1997, he received the prestigious George Bailey Award from The Reinvestment Fund for outstanding business achievement. In 1998 he was awarded the Minority Business Enterprise Council award during its "MEDWEEK event. He has also received a Citation from the City for his commitment to Philadelphia, and was selected by the Department of Commerce to travel to China on an important international trade mission. He is an active and productive participant on numerous other Committees and Boards.

Zakariyya is the President/CEO of the Nicetown Community Development Corporation, (NTCDC) founded in 1999 by a group who collectively bring decades of diverse experience in developing the community. Under his leadership, they fulfill their mission with a holistic approach that prioritizes: public safety, "re-education" and training; affordable housing development, commercial corridor revitalization, arts & culture, and land care. The NTCDC has delivered supportive services to thousands of low-moderate income residents over 12 years. Zakariyya and the NTCDC consolidated a succession of five planning efforts to develop a neighborhood economic development and housing strategy. In 2012, the plan was approved by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, and is a strategic plan to complete a pipeline of development projects that will span the next 10 years. In 2013, the NTCDC was awarded for excellence in community development for its mixed used developments-Nicetown Court I & II. These projects total \$32 million in investment, and the NTCDC 10 year plan includes nearly \$100 million in future development.

Other significant NTCDC achievements include the Annual Give Back to the Community Festival (11 years) and the Zakee Abdur Rahman Education Scholarships (4 years) The scholarships are a legacy established in memory of Zakariyya's eldest son Zakee, who was lost to senseless violence in 2009. Zakariyya enhances his priority on education with his partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and their annual bus tours to historical black colleges and universities with high school students.

Zakariyya has also been an active member of Masjidullah, Inc. of Philadelphia since 1990. During that time he made Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca three times, served as a Board Member, and is presently the Assistant Business Manager. In 2013, Zakariyya took a leadership role with Majidullah's acquisition and redevelopment of a new \$1.5 million facility in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia.

He continues with his leadership role as Chairman of the Universal Muslim Business Association, a group of more than fifty small business owners in Philadelphia and vicinity.