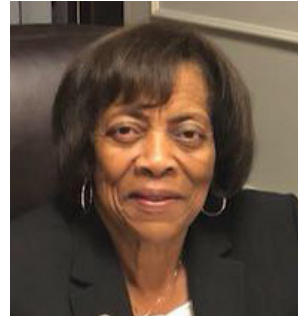


# Hazel Erby

University City resident Hazel Erby is a trailblazer in politics and community service.

The first African American woman to gain a seat on the St. Louis County Council in 2004, Erby served as the District 1 representative for 15 years, making her the longest sitting member of the county council. In that role she represented 38 municipalities and approximately 145,000 constituents. In 2009, she was named the first African American chair of the council.



**2020 MLK Spirit Awardee  
Hazel Erby**

In her career, Erby recognized that adversity is typically due to injustice, inequity and systemic denial of opportunity. She uses her voice to address those root problems. As chair of the county council in 2014, she championed \$1 billion in emergency funding for relief services in the Ferguson area after Michael Brown was killed. In 2018, Erby sponsored historic legislation that established the county's first minority contracting ordinance to promote the hiring of minority- and women-owned businesses.

Erby has had a hand in dozens of community programs to help youth and seniors. She is the founder of the Teenage Allowance Program (TAP) in University City and has served as a Parents as Teachers Advisory Board Member. She has worked closely with The School District of University City and the University City Police Department. She is the former Director of Community Partnership for the Prevention of Substance Abuse and the former Program Facilitator for the Caring Communities Program at Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School. She chaired the University City Community Response Team for seven years.

Erby holds degrees from Lincoln University and Harris-Stowe University. She holds honors from dozens of organizations, including the St. Louis City NAACP Medgar Wiley Evers Medal of Freedom, the Dr. Dorothy I. Height Leadership Award from the National Council of Negro Women and the District's Uniquely U. City Award.