



Justin Terrell

Justin Terrell is a community leader with a track record of executing successful issue campaigns. With an expertise in Criminal Justice and Democracy reform, Terrell has led campaigns to expand fair hiring and remove barriers to voting. Terrell is an accomplished trainer and has led political education locally, nationally and in Central Europe. He has mobilized thousands across the state of Minnesota and has worked to develop community members as advocates, organizers and leaders.

In 2013, Justin led the campaign to move Target Corporation to remove barriers to employment for people with criminal records. The campaign concluded with Target Corporation adopting a Ban the Box policy and supporting a state law expanding Ban the Box for private employers. For this work, Justin was awarded the 2014 Facing Race Ambassador Award from the Saint Paul Foundation.

As the former Executive Director of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, Terrell focused on expanding the capacity of the agency by increasing its budget, staffing and engagement from the community and with legislators. In the wake of the global pandemic and the uprising from the senseless murder of George Floyd, Terrell worked advised the Governor to have Attorney General Keith Ellison prosecute the case against Drrick Chavin, supported sweeping changes to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board whcih governs officer liceses and advocated for a 10 year lookback investigation into the Minneapolis Police Departmetn by the Minnesota Human Rights Department.

As the Executive Director of the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC), over the past year, Terrell has focused on building a balanced and rigorous research program aimed at equipping Minnesotans with the information and tools needed to transform the punitive criminal legal system. Through research, education and policy development the MNJRC aims to bring systems into stronger alignment with commonly held values associated with justice and racial equity.

Terrell has a background in Social Work with years of experience working with youth and families in crisis. He is a 2021 Bush Fellow and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Advocacy and Political Leadership at Metro State University. He has over eight years of policy and advocacy experience and has been trained/mentored by the founder of Black Organizing Leadership Development (B.O.L.D.). Terrell was a 2014 Great Lakes Consortium Fellow and serves as a community member on the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board for the State of Minnesota. Terrell lives in Richfield, Minnesota with his wife and two young children. He is also a mentor to a young man from North Minneapolis.

Justin@MNJRC.ORG

Twitter @JTerrell41