



December 2022

THE DEEP BENCH

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of African American Affairs

The Office of African American Affairs is proud to recognize the many Black professionals throughout New Mexico who are committed to impacting the lives of Black New Mexicans. Their education, expertise, and experience have poised them to be leaders in their careers, in the public and private sectors.

Each month we recognize individuals, spotlighting their accomplishments and their impact on New Mexico. If you would like to nominate a Black professional (including yourself) to be in the Deep Bench, please send your name and contact information to Charlycia.Strain1@state.nm.us



Ahdohny Routheni

Degree and Alma Mater:

Currently: Attending UNM, BA/MA in Liberal Arts and Public Administration.
Completed Associates in Communications from CNM, 2020

Current Position:

Real Estate Associate Broker at Simply Real Estate; Director, and member of Board of Directors at Juneteenth Renaissance Institute

Community Involvement:

On his own, Ahdohny has provided mentoring in entrepreneurship skills to over 20 young men who were either at risk of going jail or already in gangs or making money selling drugs.

- Juneteenth Renaissance Institute, Board of Directors, Director- 2021 to Present.
- Advancing Belonging, Community and Diversity Council at GAAR, Co-founder and Member- 2021 to Present.
- APS African American Advisory Council, Council Member- August 2022 to Present.
- CABQ Office of Black Engagement Strategy Team, Advisor- 2021 to Present.
- Member of the Board of Directors, National Juneteenth Observance Foundation- 2015 to 2022.
- South Los Altos Neighborhood Association, Member- 2021 to Present.
- Hawthorne Elementary School Community Coalition, Member- 2022.
- Ahdohny volunteers at his church, children's schools and with other neighborhood and community groups as called upon.

Ahdohny Routheni grew up in California and the DMV in an immigrant and military household, before becoming a New Mexican. At 10, he joined a program going door-to-door selling candy and pencils for youth activities. In high school, he took culinary arts and contracted a life-long disease. He struggled to graduate, and almost died. Ahdohny knows tomorrow is not promised, and has a life-long love for cooking and self-determination.

Following high school, Ahdohny was a traveling direct sales representative. He overcame his own struggles in the streets to mentor youth in developing entrepreneurship skills outside of crime and selling drugs. After dealing with homelessness, Ahdohny reconnected with his father and settled in Albuquerque. Ahdohny became active with his four nephews, prompting him to pursue college for their futures.

In 2016-2017, Ahdohny got married and his daughter was born. He was a stay-at-home parent and student. In 2020, he opened his first brick-and-mortar business and continued mentoring youth. During lockdown, he welcomed a son and obtained his Associates in Communications from CNM. COVID closed his business, so Ahdohny started taking real estate courses. Ahdohny earned his Real Estate License and joined Homewise, Inc., supporting homeownership among historically disenfranchised populations.

Ahdohny became a homeowner and joined Simply Real Estate in 2021. In 2022, he co-founded Juneteenth Renaissance Institute, a non profit organization building off his passion for mentoring and economic empowerment for youth and the black community. Ahdohny is pursuing a Bachelors in Liberal Arts & Integrative Studies at UNM, and volunteers his free time to support his neighborhood association, church, and community councils.

Ahdohny loves to cook, bake and hangout with his family. Ahdohny enjoys hip hop music, gardening, fitness, and watching superhero shows. He aspires to earn his masters in Public Administration at UNM, be a better public servant and attend an anime comic-con.

What do you want your influence on the NM Black Community to Be? If there is a place for me to influence it would be to help the people in Albuquerque see that the most precious jewels in the city are within the most economically depressed zones. The people who are the most ignored have the real will of fire to continue even if they are forgotten, we all matter and there is hope in spaces that are filled with hopelessness. I want to make change with economic empowerment- to see Black people here building wealth, owning homes, youth excelling, folks off the streets and Black people coming here and staying because you can thrive.

What can NM do to attract more Blacks to our state? To attract more black people to New Mexico a few things should take place such as the reality and the promises of opportunity and the broadcasting of the opportunity. We need real Veteran benefits for people leaving the military. We need the great home prospect of buying a home and having a place for grandma, real estate properties, and a lot more things for kids to do. We need to take advantage of the fact that we have in-law quarters to help keep growing families expand and legacy stable. We have land, we have urban spaces that are ready for change, we have multi-use spaces. We need to fight to keep homeownership high and prices low compared to the rest of America. One of the biggest things we can do is be black people that support black businesses and organizations as if there was no other choice, which will push the narrative of black financial success and institutions in New Mexico.

What do you believe are the strengths of the NM Black Community?

There is not a lot of black people in New Mexico so there is not the same scale of problems to solve or that many people to serve with these problems compared to other places I've been. Conceivably, we can reach everyone, include everyone, empower everyone. This could be the first place in the United States to have a home for every black person, and be an example for restorative justice at a systems level for the whole country. The state of New Mexico has made it easier for people of African descent to attain higher education which will eventually play a big role in us becoming middle class. Albuquerque in its uniqueness has the most beautiful intelligent single eligible black women per capita (that's my stats!). Some of the other best things about New Mexico are the family living quarters. I've seen many properties that are multi-use or residential with casitas, which can be ideal to help maintain the family in close proximity. There is also the plus that you can become the first black anything in New Mexico history. Just make sure to bring folks with you!



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