



LeVar “L. D.” Thomas is a native Dallasite and grandson of former Dallas City Councilman Al Lipscomb. He often tells the story of one day he spent with his grandfather, that started out in South Dallas handing out food to the homeless and ended at the home of then Mayor Annette Strauss. “You have those moments and those days that just shape your perception of the world. That was one of mine. I started that day handing out lunches to the homeless in South Dallas. By days end we were being served fresh lemonade and cookies in the biggest most palatial house my young eyes had ever seen. We went from drugs and despair to tennis courts and maids. It showed me the real disparity that existed and still exist between the haves and the have-nots and the

importance of giving back. But more importantly I watched how my grandfather treated and interacted with individuals from such different circles. There was no difference. He treated everyone with dignity and respect; regardless of race, gender, money or social status. Its something I keep with me everyday of my life.”

Mr. Thomas’ commitment to better his community blossomed early. He attended the School of Government and Law Magnet, where he concentrated on governmental studies. It was there he was first appointed to the City of Dallas Youth Commission. Later Mayor Ron Kirk appointed him chair of the youth commission. Under his leadership the youth commission hosted teen talk shows on pregnancy and violence. They also lobbied and helped pass city ordinances like the Teen Curfew and bicycle helmet ordinance that are still in effect today. Mr. Thomas also hosted statewide youth conferences right here in Dallas that brought thousands of youth together from all over the state of Texas.



As he matured so did the causes he took on. Later, he was appointed to the human services commission by former councilman James Fantroy. Mr. Thomas helped lobby for issues related to the homeless, youth, and individuals that are drug and alcohol dependent. Later he was appointed by Councilman Leo V. Chaney to work on the Martin Luther King

Community center board of directors. There he helped raise money for the continuation of many of the centers services including utility pay assistance, child immunization, and health screenings. He also helped usher in Dallas first community court. The community court was designed to allow individuals to perform service to their community instead of fines. A court many say is helping finally clean up south Dallas.



In August of 2004, Mr. Thomas graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in International Relations: Business and Economics. He became the first person in his family to graduate from a four year university.



A few months after graduation, Mr. Thomas went to work as an educator for Dallas ISD. He spent three years in the district; He often recounts this as one of the most rewarding periods of his life. Spurred by his desire to help all youth meet their god given potential, Mr. Thomas started the “Work In Progress Literacy Program” for young minority men; it was a program that infused sports, popular culture, and music to get young men interested in reading. At the height of the program, seventeen young men were active and engaged in reading.

Mr. Thomas’ work within the community has only expanded. In 2007 he began the first of his two terms on the Dallas young Democrats Board of Directors. He also served on the City of Dallas Housing Finance Corporation. In addition he now serves as Chair of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats-Dallas Chapter.



In the summer of 2008 Mr. Thomas was selected as a State and National Delegate for President-elect Barack Obama. “It was an experience like none other. To have the opportunity to witness history is a feeling I cannot put into words; couple that with the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas of community revitalization and voter engagement with such prominent and well respected individuals from across this country, I can safely say I came back a different person. I was a person hopeful and inspired that our communities and government can be better than they are today if good men and women are willing to stand up and speak out.”