*Rita Janice Henry*

BIO

Rita has been the Office Manager in Council Member At-Large Mel Franklin since December 2010 and a resident of Clinton for 25 years. She currently attends Mt. Ennon Baptist Church.

Rita retired from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) May 10, 2010 after nearly 30 years of service working on the Hurricane, Earthquake and National Dam Safety Programs as a Program Specialist. In this capacity, she served as liaison with Federal and State officials and the private sector. Working on these programs provided her travel throughout the United States enlightening the communities on FEMA’s authority mandated by Congress. She managed the National Dam Safety Grant Assistance Program with a budget over seven years of approximately $22M.

During her tenure at FEMA, Rita was chosen to participate in the Leadership Excellence Program (LEP) by the Director of FEMA in 2000 and is a 2003 graduate of the year-long Executive Potential Program (EPP) that enabled her to participate at other Federal agencies, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, MD Lt. Governor’s Office and the Library of Congress. As a member of the EPP, she conducted interviews of government, state, private sector officials, political appointees, and business owners to ascertain information on their success as leaders. This was done in accordance with the requirements of the Program to write a report for submission to the United States Department of Agriculture Department Program staff.

Rita accepted and successfully completed a major task of developing a report to Congress on the availability and affordability of insurance for dam failure. This report addressed the need for affordable insurance for dam failure and the loss of life and property and made recommendations concerning the greater availability of comprehensive and liability insurance for dam owners. During this time, she served as FEMA’s representative and primary point-of-contact to the Task Force that developed the Implementation Plan for the National Dam Safety Program which was mandated by Public Law 104-303 that had to be completed within 180 days after the new legislation was passed.

Rita served as President of the Prince George’s County Volunteer Center Board of Directors for over five years and communicated with County officials, contractors, business owners, and citizens of the County regarding the Center. In January 2004, she led a delegation of the Board staff to brief the County Executive on the operational requirements for the Center.

Rita served six years on her Homeowner’s Association as Treasurer and for over ten years as financial secretary to the FEMA Chapter of Blacks in Government during her government tenure. She served as President of Military Wives Clubs, President and Secretary of Bowling Leagues and was the founder of the first African American Women’s Bowling League of Fredericksburg, VA that lasted for over 30 years. Rita also sponsored an “Awareness Workshop for African American Women” in 2000 in Fredericksburg, VA where 120 women attended.

Rita has an Associate of Arts Degree in Paralegal Studies from Prince George’s Community College and numerous awards and recommendations. She has been an Election Judge for the County for many years and worked political campaigns in Nashville, TN and here in Prince George’s County.

Rita has traveled throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Canada and lived for over 10 years in Europe and Asia. Rita enjoys her family, reading, travel, basketball, and politics.