Candy Johnson Bio Long Version

Johnson’s professional experience includes nearly two decades of leadership in nonprofit, government,

education and various civic roles. Her most recent role started in 2021, when Johnson was named the

first female President and CEO for the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga (ULGC).

In less than two years, working strategically alongside the ULGC’s Board of Directors, she led the effort

to raise the necessary capital for the successful acquisition of a $3.8 million Urban League headquarters,

after nearly 40 years of the organization’s existence as renters. Also, while under her leadership the

team has doubled in size, received the largest single philanthropic gift in its history from the Mackenzie

Scott foundation, launched its first State of Black Chattanooga research report and the first ULGC

individual giving circle, The President’s Circle.

Before joining the Urban League, she served as a senior advisor to Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke,

where she acted as a member of the mayor’s senior leadership team. Johnson headed up the

community-focused initiatives to create sustainable partnerships and external investments to advance

the economic, racial and social equity agenda of the administration, with the ultimate goal of improving

the quality of life for more residents. During her tenure with the Berke administration, she also led the

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Alliance in partnership with Bloomberg Associates, co-created the Styles L. Hutchins Black College Student Fellowship and led other public engagement efforts.

Prior to joining the City of Chattanooga in 2019, Johnson worked as an independent consultant offering

services to nonprofit organizations in strategic planning, diversity and inclusion initiatives, resource

development, and educational equity advocacy. She also served as the policy director for the Nashville

Area Chamber of Commerce before relocating to Chattanooga in July 2017 with her husband and two

children. Before embarking on her career in policy, Johnson served as executive director of a nonprofit

organization, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Education Foundation for seven years. A native of

Clarksville, Tennessee, she was also the youngest member ever elected to public office for the Clarksville

City Council, at 25 years of age.

Johnson holds a bachelor’s degree in public management from Austin Peay State University and a master’s degree in public administration from Murray State University. She is also a graduate of various community leadership programs to include: Leadership Tennessee, Leadership Middle Tennessee, Leadership Clarksville, Hunt Institute & Score Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Citizen Academy and the Harvard Young American Leaders Program.

She has served as an adjunct professor in the University of Tennessee System and currently serves on several local and state boards such as, the Tennessee Aquarium, Truist Bank Advisory Board, TVA RERC Advisory Board, CHI Memorial Hospital Board, Southeast Tennessee Workforce Development Board, among others.