

NBCI's 150,000 Black Churches Express Deep Disappointment in the Former Mayor and Three Others in Hinds Co. Corruption

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, June 30, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [National Black Church Initiative](#)¹ (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino faith communities, comprising 27.7 million members, is saddened and disappointed by the four African American politicians who decided to steal rather than serve with honor or distinction in the African American community. The black Churches will not defend our brothers and sisters who steal and commit fraud. This is shameful!

Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative, says, "We used to call them our "Talented Tenth", but they turned out to be the talented greed.

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— Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative

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Four local leaders and a businessman were indicted in a sprawling federal bribery scheme involving undercover FBI agents posing as

real estate developers seeking to build a convention center hotel in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. [\[1, 2\]](#)

The primary individuals involved:

- Jody Owens: Hinds County District Attorney. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and resigned from office.
- Chokwe Antar Lumumba: Former Mayor of Jackson. He maintained his not guilty plea ahead of the scheduled federal trial.
- Aaron Banks: Former Jackson City Councilman. He also maintained his not guilty plea and is preparing for trial.
- Angelique Lee: Former Jackson City Councilwoman. She pleaded guilty early on in the investigation for her role.
- Sherik Marve Smith: A Hinds County businessman. He also entered a plea for his involvement in the scheme.

ABOUT NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. The mission of NBCI is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches, and the public. NBCI utilizes faith and sound health science, partnering with major organizations and officials to reduce racial disparities in various areas, as cited above. NBCI's programs are guided by credible statistical analysis, science-based strategies and techniques, and methods that deliver effective solutions to complex economic and social challenges.

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¹ <https://www.naltblackchurch.com>

² <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/mississippi-district-attorney-mayor-jackson-and-jackson-city-council-member-charged-bribery>

³ <https://www.mississippifreepress.org/hinds-county-da-jody-owens-pleads-guilty-to-conspiracy-charge-in-jackson-bribery-case-resigns/>



Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Co-Conspirator "C"

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/918991359/>

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