

Lieutenant James “Tacuma” Ribbron



James W. (Tacuma Yero Kali) Ribbron, M CD, was ten years old when his father, Deacon Jomo Ribbron, and mother, Sister Makini, joined the church in 1969. He is currently the Director of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for the City of Detroit. The BZA is a quasi-judicial body that hears and rules on appeals from any person aggrieved by a decision of an enforcing officer or any decision made by the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department, where rigid enforcement could cause the appellant undue hardship.

Since rededicating his life to the Shrine of the Black Madonna in 1992, Tacuma married his beautiful wife Valerie--it was a wonderful wedding service officiated by, then, Bishop Baye. The Ribbrons now have a very lovely and talented teenager, Kaila who occasionally performs and does accompaniments with Shrine #1's Music Minsitry.

Throughout the 1990's Tacuma worked with the Community Development leadership of the church to form the Gideon Community Development Group to help create a plan for the redevelopment of the Linwood corridor within the Shrine# 1 area. Drafted into the Holy Order the Maccabees in 1993, Tacuma is currently serving at the rank of Lieutenant. As a member of the Black Slate Committee he facilitates Political Education Workshops and Podcast Programs, he has hosted the Black Slate Radio Program, and he has run for public office.

More recently, in May of this year, Lt. Tacuma traveled to Montana to complete an 11-day training on the Permaculture in that state. Prior to May 2012, he worked for Michigan State University in St. Clair County as the District Extension Educator, where the focus was on educating community residents, leaders, and policy makers on issues related to Economic Development and Land Use. The areas of expertise were: business solutions, intervention and retention, product development and innovation, new venture entrepreneurial development, and focusing on culture as a driver for economic development.

Lt. Tacuma's community service includes time on the Michigan State University Extension Council for Wayne County and the Representative on the Statewide Council, Board of Directors for Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and the Detroit Primary Care Network. Other volunteer activities include terms as Chairman of the Wayne County Foster Review Board #9, Chairman of the Detroit Million Man March Group, Community Liaison for the Davison Association of Neighborhood Block Clubs and, currently, a Process Leader with the Detroit Works Long Term Planning Group.

As a member of the PAOCC Graphics Ministry, Lt. Tacuma created several historical presentations covering the history of the church since its inception, and he provides technical support to the Sunday Services Production Crew. On most Sundays the church doors are opened by Tacuma because, even though he drives from the far east side of Detroit, he usually arrives at the NTC, gets the keys and unlocks the Shrine!

His consistently professed theme for life is: "SEEK POSSIBILTIES"