



Vince Larkins Biography

Vince Larkins is co-founder and President/CEO of the watchdog Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, Inc. (FHC). The FHC is nationally known for assisting in over 6 *Million Dollars* in financial recovery for victims of housing discrimination. The FHC has trained hundreds of housing providers on their obligations since 2000. Most importantly, over 20,000 housing units have been opened on an equal opportunity basis throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. Larkins is a long time member of the Board of Directors of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), based in Washington DC. NFHA is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals from throughout the United States. Since joining the NFHA Board in 2004 he has been a regular in the halls of Congress on a year round basis, working closely with members of both the House and the Senate to introduce new and protect existing legislation in regards to civil rights, affordable housing, CDBG programs and numerous other housing related issues.

Mr. Larkins served on the Palm Beach County Fair Housing/Equal Employment Opportunity Board from 1991-1999. In 1999 he was appointed to the PBC Commission on Affordable Housing, which he chaired for many years before stepping down in 2009. He served as an original incorporator and member of the board of directors for the Community Land Trust of PBC, as its first President. He currently serves on the Delray Beach CLT Board of Directors.

In 1997 and 2000 Mr. Larkins was awarded by the Gold Coast Builders Association for "Outstanding Professionalism Among Sales and Marketing Members in the Home Building Industry". Also in 2000, the County Commission recognized Mr. Larkins, in appreciation for his dedicated service to the people of Palm Beach County.

In 2004 he was presented by the Fair Housing Council of Northeast Ohio with its "Champion of Humanity Award" for his "Unrelenting Fight Against Housing Discrimination". In April of 2006, he was honored by L.I.S.C of South Florida with its 2006 "Community Development Leader Award". In 2009 Mr. Larkins was presented with the "Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award" at the Urban League 35th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Gala.

He has appeared in numerous national and local new publications, news channels and talk shows, such as the Wall Street Journal, Good Housingkeeping, National Fair Housing Advocate, The Independent Washington Report-Housing Affairs, South Florida Business Journal, Palm Beach Post, the Sun Sentinel, as well as and the WPTV25, WPEC5, CBSNEWS12, Channel 20's Special Edition-County Connection and Channel 2's WPBT/PBS-Issues.

His dedicated advocacy and commitment to human rights has earned him the reputation and credibility required to effectively network with elected and non-elected officials, various religious denominations, public agencies, private, civic and community-based groups, immigrant organizations, homeless organizations, disability groups, housing industry providers, lenders and the electronic/print media, those making the Dream of Dr. King closer to reality.