

Dr. Fred L.
McGHEE
for Austin City Council District 3

"He's Tough and He Knows Stuff"

WWW.FREDMCGHEE.COM

BRIEF BIO

Basic Background Narrative:

I am a native of Karlsruhe in the Federal Republic of Germany and came to America as an immigrant at age 10. I am a dual national and am *not* an "Army Brat." I completed my education and learned English in Enfield, Connecticut and am a product of the town's public schools. Upon enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1984 I worked my way up through the ranks, using the Navy's Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program as a springboard. I eventually become a Special Operations officer and one of the first black diving officers in U.S. Navy history. My first visit to Austin was in 1993, when as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy I stayed at Bergstrom Air Force Base. Upon receiving my honorable discharge, I moved to Austin permanently in 1995 to attend graduate school at the University of Texas. I am the first person in my family to attend college—my mother grew up in Karlsruhe during and after World War II and has a seventh grade education because there were no schools for her to attend. My father, a sharecropper's son from Clarksdale in the Mississippi Delta, had a ninth grade education. He died in 1985 after being shot and killed by my mother. I earned a B.S. in the Linguistics of American Sign Language and German from Northeastern University in Boston and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology/Archaeology from UT Austin and also attended Norwich University in Vermont and Fachhochschule Karlsruhe in Germany. I am one of the first African-Americans to earn a Ph.D. in archaeology and am still the *only* Ph.D. level black maritime archaeologist in the world. I am extensively credentialed in the fields of greenbuilding, sustainability, scientific diving, environmental protection and cultural resources management, and am also a graduate of the ITeachTexas alternative teacher certification program as a high school English and Social Studies teacher. Over the years I have amassed an extensive resume as a small business owner, community volunteer and advocate, and as a scholar of international renown. Examples of some of my local public service include: founding president of the Montopolis Neighborhood Association and the Carson Ridge Neighborhood Association, service on the City of Austin's Board of Adjustment, board member of the Austin History Center Association, member of the anti-gentrification task force, board member of the Austin chapter of the Passive House Alliance, and membership on the Charter Revision Committee that gave us the 10-1 city council. A 2011 Leadership Austin graduate, I am the author of three books, including a history of the Montopolis Neighborhood, where I live and work in a five-star certified greenbuilt home I built for my family.

Education:

M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin; B.S. (cum laude) in Linguistics, Northeastern University; attended Norwich University in Vermont and Fachhochschule Karlsruhe in Germany; numerous professional certifications in the fields of greenbuilding (LEED), sustainability (Building Performance Institute), rainwater catchment (American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association) military and scientific diving (in addition to being a U.S. Navy Diver I am a University of Hawai'i trained Scientific Diver with full NOAA reciprocity), environmental protection (EPA Environmental Justice and numerous other credentials), and cultural resources management. Graduated from various military training courses too numerous to mention. I am also a proud graduate of the school of hard knocks and know what it means to have had to climb the rough side of the mountain.

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Experience:

Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology, Austin Community College (2009-present); Founder, President and Principal Investigator Fred L. McGhee & Associates (2002-present); Founder and President Fidelitas Homes and Energy Audits (2011-present); Founder and President, Fidelitas Publishing (2012-present); Board Member, Passive House Alliance, Austin chapter (2014-present); Board Member, Austin History Center Association (2010-2013); Founding President, Montopolis Neighborhood Association (2008-2009); Visiting Professor of African-American Studies, University of Houston (2004-2005); Chief Archaeologist, U.S. Air Force in Hawai'i (2001-2003); Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Hawai'i Pacific University, (2001); U.S. Navy Special Operations Officer (1991-1997); High School Physics Teacher University High School, Honolulu, Hawai'i (2001), Mike Hogg Fellow, Urban Issues Program, University of Texas at Austin (1999-2000); School and Community Outreach Specialist Austin Community College (1998-1999); Communications Specialist, Housing Authority of the City of Austin (1996); Public School Teacher, Corpus Christi and Austin Independent Schools Districts, 1995-2000, U.S. Navy enlisted service (1984-1986); various working class positions from 1980 onwards, including agricultural labor (tobacco picker and carnation planter), golf caddie at the Longmeadow Country Club, landscaper and snow shoveler, work on the shipping docks, at a lumber mill (for Steinway and Sons), and in retail (Broad Brook Pizza and Grinder Shoppe, Friendly's Restaurants, McDonald's, Bob's Surplus, and the Boston University Bookstore). Between 1979 and 1981 I was also a paperboy and delivered copies of the Hartford Courant and Journal Inquirer in my hometown of Enfield, Connecticut.

Selected Publications and Presentations:

(copies available at my Academia.edu page: <https://austincc.academia.edu/FredMcGhee>)

Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood. Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

Two Texas Race Riots. Fidelitas Publishing, 2012.

The Complete Guide to PC/AT-SPEED. Heim Verlag, 1991.

Son of Enfield, Father of Texas: A Bottom Up Look at the Life of Elisha Marshall Pease, 1812-1883.

John Saunders Chase, FAIA: Texas Architect, Texas Educator, Texas Leader

African-Americans and U.S. Navy Diving: A Legacy of Performance Under Pressure

On The Use and Abuse of Presentism in Public Housing Preservation Debates

Teaching History, Teaching Race, Teaching the History of Race in Texas

Norris Wright Cuney: A Study in Afro-Texas Leadership

Writings for the Texas Observer and the Austin Chronicle:

Juneteenth and the Myth of Texas Independence (June 15, 2010, republished June 19, 2014)

To Swim or Not to Swim (July 28, 2010)

Confederate License Plates Evoke Slavery, Not Heritage (Oct. 21, 2011)

Writers on Kennedy, "Profile in Courage" (Nov. 22, 2013)

Selected Appearances as Texas History Scholar on Film:

Tomlinson Hill. Lisa Kaselak, Director, Chris Tomlinson, Author and Producer

Forgotten Gateway: Coming To America Through Galveston. Suzanne Serriff, Project Director.

Mutiny on the Bayou: The Camp Logan Story. John L. Smith, Director, KHOU-TV, Producer