

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, January 12



Mayor Joe Hogsett Awards OMWBD Community Impact Award to Emil Ekiyor

Award Recipient is a Former NFL Player, Community Leader, and Founder and CEO of InnoPower

INDIANAPOLIS - On Friday, January 12, 2024, during the City of Indianapolis' Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance, Mayor Joe Hogsett recognized Emil Ekiyor as the Office of Minority & Women Business Development's Martin Luther King Jr. Community Impact Award winner. This prestigious award is presented annually to a resident of Indianapolis whose work and advocacy embody Dr. King Jr.'s legacy.

"From a childhood in Nigeria to defensive lines in the NFL to founder and CEO, Emil has led a impactful and community-centered life," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "Today, as we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, the City of Indianapolis is proud to honor Emil for his commitment to business development and fostering entrepreneurship in our city and under-served communities around the world."

Emil Ekiyor, founder and CEO of InnoPower, was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and left his family at 15 to pursue educational opportunities in the United States. Following a successful college career, Emil played six (6) years in the National Football League (NFL). Upon retiring from the NFL, Emil ventured into entrepreneurship, founding several businesses in the USA, and initiating projects in Nigeria as CEO of EnabekSolutions. He also held significant leadership roles, including the National Executive Director for the GEO Foundation, President of the Indianapolis Chapter of Indiana Black Expo, and President of Indy Youth Sports.

"I am deeply humbled to be the recipient of this year's Community Impact Award, and I accept it with profound gratitude," said Emil Ekiyor. "As we pay tribute to the extraordinary legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this award serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring me to continue serving Black communities with even greater compassion and dedication."

Emil's unique experiences, from his upbringing in Nigeria to his journey to the USA, have given him a distinctive perspective on the disparities in Black communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the USA. This insight led him to establish [InnoPower](#) in 2019, a business dedicated to highlighting and supporting innovations that accelerate growth in Black communities, create capacity-building opportunities, and provide a platform for creative thought and innovative entrepreneurialism. His unwavering commitment to bridging the wealth and opportunity gaps for Black communities in the USA and Nigeria is the reason he was chosen as the Community Impact Award recipient for 2024.

The City of Indianapolis Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance is an annual event to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's hour-long program featured remarks by Mayor Joe Hogsett and Director David Fredricks, a keynote speech by Pastor John E. Girton Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Martin University, and musical performances.

###

About City of Indianapolis Office of Minority and Women Business Development:

The Office of Minority & Women Business Development (OMWBD) is committed to serving businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and people with ADA disabilities. The agency helps you access contract opportunities from the city, county, municipal, and privately funded projects in Central Indiana. City-County XBE certifications are narrowly tailored to its XBE program and goals to remedy the identified discrimination for its local firms to address past and/or ongoing discrimination in the relevant marketplace. Businesses interested in becoming certified as a minority, woman, veteran, or disabled-owned business enterprise can learn more about the process and connect with OMWBD [here](#).

MEDIA CONTACT:

Katlyn Rodriguez

(317) 327-5775

Katlyn.Rodriguez@indy.gov