

CITY OF EVANSVILLE - 2026

JACQUELINE LAGRONE



*Evansville's First Black Woman Appointed Official,
Civil Rights Advocate, Community Leader*

Jacqueline LaGrone, valedictorian of Lincoln High School, earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Evansville in 1976. She began her career with the Evansville Human Relations Commission in 1969 as a secretary and rose through the ranks to become Executive Director in 1980—appointed by Mayor Russell G. Lloyd, Sr.—making her the first Black woman to lead a City of Evansville administration department.

Under her leadership, the Commission expanded its jurisdiction to Vanderburgh County. LaGrone was deeply involved in civic and professional organizations, including the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, NAACP, Legal Services Advisory Board, Emergency Planning Board, and the Evansville Black Roundtable, where she launched the Adopt-A-Black Business Project.

She received numerous honors, including inclusion in Who's Who in Indiana, the University of Evansville Minority Student Association Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award, the Sadelle Berger Award, and the Mayor Frank McDonald II Award of Merit. A charter member of the Evansville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., LaGrone was also deeply devoted to her Catholic faith. Her leadership paved the way for future generations of public servants.