



BIO – Councilwoman Felisha Reyes-Morton

Updated: 4/16/19

Born and raised in various communities throughout Camden, Mrs. Reyes-Morton's family emigrated from Puerto Rico to North Camden in the 60's after her grandfather returned from the Vietnam War. As a youth, she attended Cramer Elementary, Parkside Elementary, and Hatch Middle School. Through no fault of her own, she lost her parents to the ills of incarceration and drugs. While being raised by her grandmother, she had to move from her Parkside home and ultimately continued school at Camden Academy Charter High School, where she participated in the C.A.U.S.E. Aquatic Program. She also shape the program's curriculum, provided classroom instruction, and secured continued educational opportunities as it relates to Aquatic Science for Camden City School Districts Summer Program Partnership. She graduated from Camden Academy Charter High School in 2007.

After graduation, she enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she was a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. In 2010, she received a bachelor of arts in criminal justice and Spanish, graduating in just three years.

During her time at Fairleigh Dickinson, she became innately aware of the impoverishment of her beloved Camden. The increase in crime and the decline of neighborhoods was unnerving. It was then that she knew that in order to make a positive change, she had to get involved. Mrs. Reyes-Morton became involved in projects that would advance her community. Soon, Mrs. Reyes-Morton was elected as a member of the Camden County Democratic Committee. "To effect positive change, you must get out and vote," stated Mrs. Reyes-Morton.

At the same time, she became vice president of a local community non-profit organization, Concerned Citizens of North Camden Concerned Citizens of North Camden and assists with recruitment and develops community partnership in the North Camden community to provide a better quality of life for residents. Together with the president, Bryan Morton, they identify funding to help the organization plan and implement neighborhood improvement projects.

Mrs. Reyes-Morton worked for Rowan University's Upward Bound ESL Program from 2008 to 2010. While there, she helped shape the program's curriculum, provided classroom instruction, and secured continued educational opportunities for ESL students after graduation. She has also worked as an intern to Camden City Council President Francisco Moran, and at the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Grand Jury Division. Mrs. Reyes-Morton has served on the Camden City School District from May 2011 until most recently June 2018; during her time at the Camden City School District Mrs. Reyes Morton takes pride in her accomplishments of launching the gifted and talented Program Pilot in Spring 2018, Partnering with private donors to build new TSEM labs at Davis, WWHS and CAMVA, partnering with proven education

operators to expand and access to high quality neighborhood public schools, bringing over \$250 million in investments for new school buildings. More recently, Mrs. Reyes-Morton has been involved with the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey, the Mayor's Office, and the Camden County Police Department to bring improvements into the community that will increase the quality of life of all Camden residents. Her work with the Hispanic Family Center as a health prevention educator helped to link families to resources. Currently, she works full-time at the Camden County Police Department and has completed a master's degree in public policy and administration at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2016.

In 2007, Mrs. Reyes-Morton and her husband founded the Community Building Corporation where they work with other community groups on community building initiatives. In 2011, the couple founded the North Camden Little League, which received national recognition in 2014 through GQ, MSNBC, Al Jazeera and Woman's Day Magazine April 2019 issue. The little league transforms underutilized public recreation spaces into healthy lifestyle hubs that promote community and education through year-round sports and educational enrichment activities to the Camden community. In 2018, the North Camden Little League engaged over 800 youth and families in baseball and other positive social activities. "In a neighborhood blanketed with crime, the little league provides a positive alternative to North Camden's harsh streets," stated Reyes-Morton.

Mrs. Reyes Morton is a Camden city committeewoman and is a former board member of LUPE Latinas United for Political Empowerment where she was tasked to increase Latinas participation in the political process in the State of New Jersey; increase the number of progressive Latinas in elected and appointed office; and promote and support progressive Latinas running for local, state, and federal office.

Additionally, Mrs. Reyes-Morton served as a parent board member of the Acelero Early Learning Head Start while her daughter Bella attended from 2009-2013. She received the "Best Mom" award for her parent involvement in 2012. She and her husband are residents of North Camden with their three daughters, I'ssabella who is in 4th grade at KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy, Ruby who is in her 2nd year of Pre-K at Sacred Hearts Montessori Program and Saige who is 2 and attends El Centro Borincano Daycare Center in Downtown Camden.

Mrs. Felisha Reyes-Morton was appointed to City Council as the 4th Ward Representative on February 19, 2019.