

# WHO'S WHO IN BLACK KANSAS CITY

*Celebrating African-American Achievement*

THE INAUGURAL EDITION



FOREWORD BY JUDGE JON R. GRAY

INTRODUCTION BY CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER II

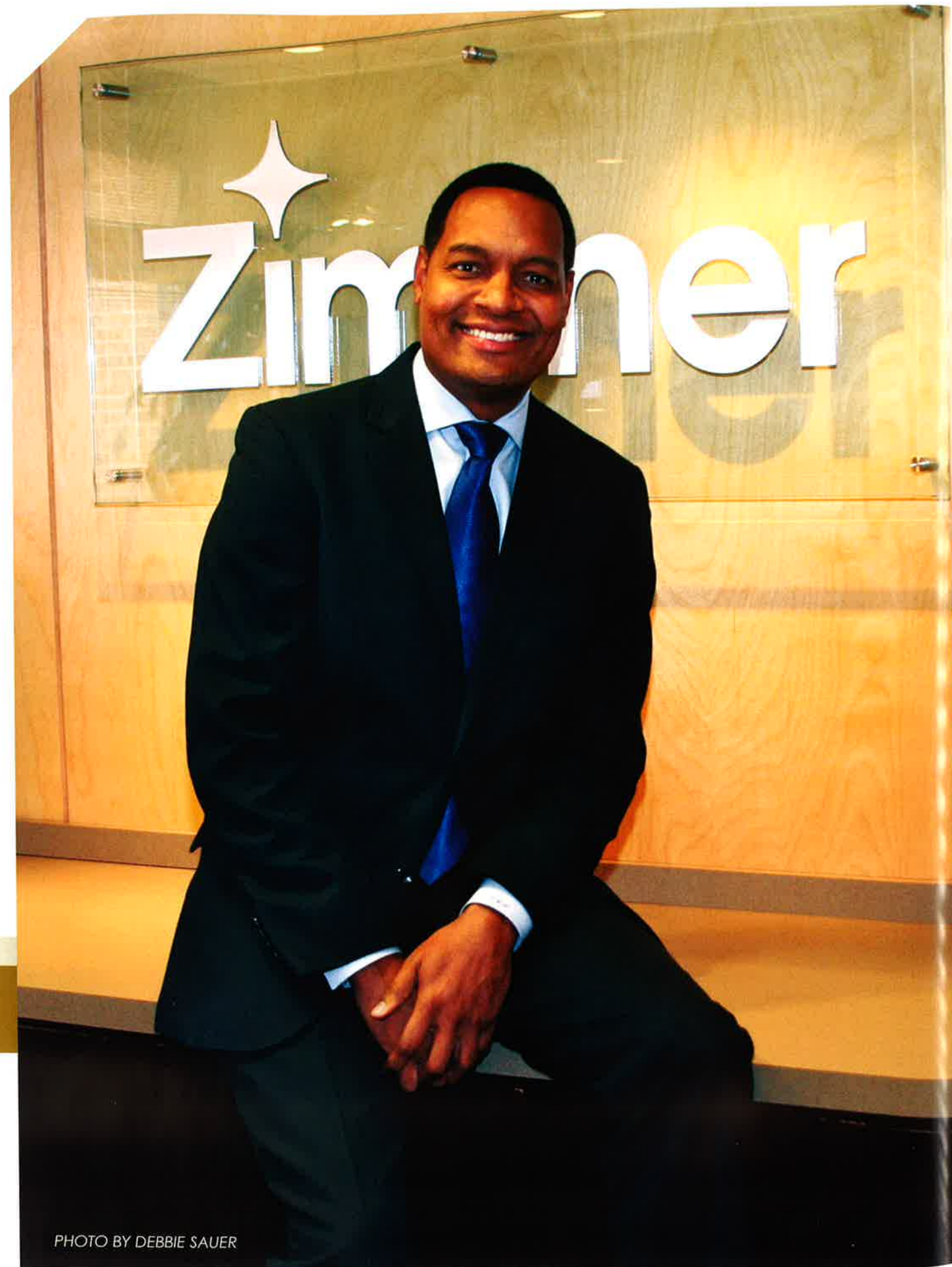


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SAUER

## TROY NASH

VICE PRESIDENT  
ZIMMER REAL ESTATE SERVICES

### EDUCATION IS A KEY TO SUCCESS

*By Michael Dabney*

If ever there was a poster boy for lifelong learning it is Troy Nash. A vice president at Zimmer Real Estate Services and its director of public sector consulting, Nash has advanced degrees in economics, political science and business; a law degree, and is nearing completion of a doctorate in education at St. Louis University. "I have an insatiable appetite for reading," he says in what is undoubtedly an understatement, adding that he thought "I might as well get credit for it."

But judging from where he started, Nash's success isn't something one would necessarily expect. The Kansas City native is the fifth of six children whose mother hadn't completed high school and who relied on welfare. Nash worked odd jobs to help his mother but the streets were calling him after graduating from Van Horn High School. Then one day he saw a poster for the Air Force and he knew it was an omen, albeit a good one. Joining the service was "the better part of wisdom," Nash says. "The military was literally my way off the streets." Stationed in Dover, Delaware, Nash inspected C-5 transport planes and rose in responsibility to eventually supervise 50 airmen. "That's where I discovered leadership," he says. Dover is also where he discovered higher education. He finished his first college degree during his four-year career in the military.

After returning home from the service, he helped three of his older brothers enroll in college. Nash's mother, Charlotte Ward, also got her GED and was enrolled as a college junior when she passed away 10 years ago. The University of Missouri-Kansas City posthumously awarded her a degree.

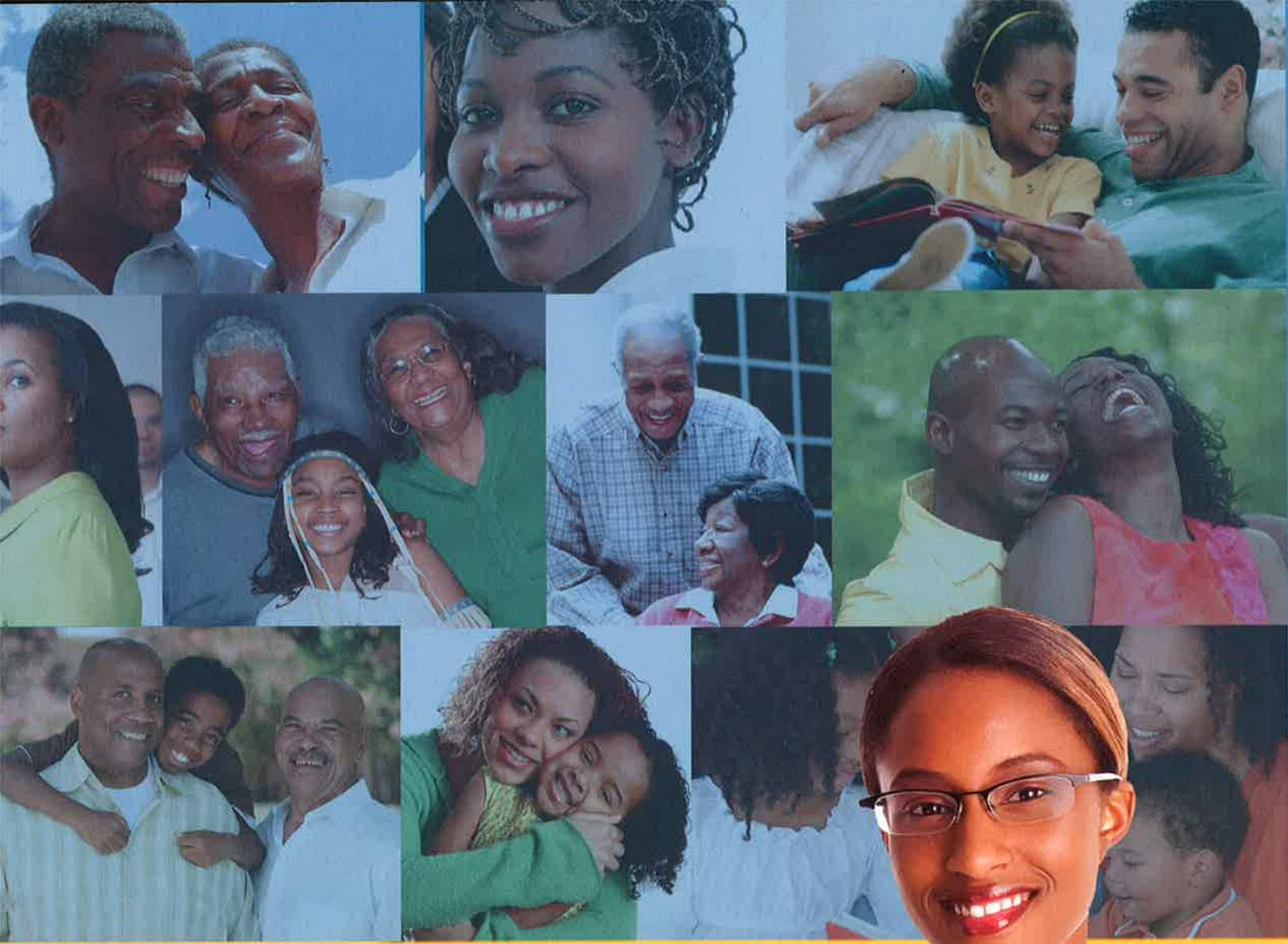
Out of the military, Nash embarked on a career of politics and of public service. He worked in numerous

political campaigns, both in Missouri and in nearby states. During his last year of law school, Nash served as an administrative assistant to a member of city council. It was there that he witnessed the "positive role government could play in partnering with the private sector to change lives." He later served as special assistant to then-Mayor Emanuel Cleaver where he worked on numerous economic development and community housing initiatives.

At age 29, he was elected to City Council and served two terms. "I was always eager to participate in the political process. Government sets the rules of the game," he says. "And the political system, if used correctly, can be used to benefit people."

He chaired the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, with jurisdiction over all zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, and "presided over the largest economic development boom in the history of the city directly impacting over \$6 billion of public/private residential, retail, entertainment, and office, industrial and infrastructure development," Nash says. Nash, 43, left city government in May 2007 at the end of his term in council and immediately joined Zimmer, where he is the lead urban and rural economic development planner. He focuses on building successful public-private partnerships, and building bridges of understanding between rural and urban areas.

"First and foremost, I listen to people," he says. "When you focus on listening, people will tell you where the pain is. Once you know that, you can craft a deal that speaks to their needs." But education remains a key to success, says Nash, the father of three children. "Frankly, without education we are not going to be able to compete."



visit us at  
[www.realtimesmedia.com](http://www.realtimesmedia.com)

Our Brands:

**WHO'S Who**  
A Real Times Media Company

**FrontPage**  
THE MORNING

**Pittsburgh Courier**



**TRI-STATE DEFENDER**  
ALL INDY NEWSWAPER

**CHICAGO DEFENDER**

VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1936  
**MICHIGAN CHRONICLE**

**ADW**  
Atlanta Daily World

\$39.95  
 ISBN 978-1-935601-63-0  
 5 3995 >

9 781935 601630



PUBLISHING. EVENTS. MARKETING. EXPRESSLY FOR THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY.