

Krystal Smith

Wake County

My experience with Commissioner James West was great. It was very interesting learning more about what he does. He has started off as the City of Raleigh Council for two years and to see he wanted to further his priorities as becoming a commissioner has really inspired me. He has inspired me to keep moving in life and to widen my expectations. His local priorities are based on education and the community. It is very good to know that he is very happy about what he does to help the community. His main concerns are the haves and have not's lack of investment job creation. Commissioner West looks at the community as his big family. His role is to speak out for those who cannot. I've learned that people in this community have a lot of issues but they aren't ready to speak out so that's where he steps in.

Mr. West stated that the biggest issue he gets from citizens is "Don't raise my taxes!" he says that some days are challenging but he has the mind set to never give up on his community. He made a promise to the citizens and he is going to keep it. Mr. West is very down to earth; his philosophy is "I don't follow nobody blindly." By him saying this shows me that he is a person who makes his own decisions. He said that is how he got to where he is now. Before he ran for office he was already pretty aware of what he was getting himself into. The only thing he struggled with was "working with municipalities," and trying to create partnerships and support. He believes that trouble don't last always. Throughout the struggles are falls he has had he kept on pushing. He said he will never take back anything he has done. He does not regret anything. He believes that everything happens for a reason.

Meeting Commissioner West was one of the best things that could have happened to me because it opened a new door in my life as far as how much people do for this community. We talked about how a lot of the community ignores people in the office. They don't realize how important it is to know what is going on in this society.