

## PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

### LATRICEA ADAMS

*civil rights and social justice leader, teacher*

*“We’re not going to wait on the old school leaders. We’re going to do it ourselves.”*

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#### Background Information

LaTricea Adams was born and raised in Memphis, TN.<sup>i</sup> From an early age, Adams possessed a drive and ambition to give back to her community. Adams received her bachelor's from the University of Memphis, her master's degree from Belmont University, and her education specialist degree from Tennessee State University.<sup>ii</sup> Adams' experience as an educator served as a source of motivation for her later community advocacy work.<sup>iii</sup>

#### Adams' Resistance

After watching national coverage of the Flint Michigan Water Crisis in 2015, Adams decided to act. As Vice-President of the Thursday-Network Greater Washington Urban League Young Professionals, she used her platform to raise awareness of this environmental justice crisis.<sup>iv</sup> Disappointed by a lack of action from prominent civil rights organizations, Adams decided to seek other collaborators. Adams partnered with younger African American organizations such as the Buffalo NY Urban League Young Professionals to deliver clean water to Flint.<sup>v</sup> She took her environmental justice advocacy further after learning that prior to his murder by Baltimore police, Freddie Gray had experienced childhood lead poisoning.<sup>vi</sup> Adams understood that there were connections between environmental justice and the systemic violence that Black people face from government officials.<sup>vii</sup> Determined to address this, Adams organized 50 young leaders to create an organization that links environmental justice and civil rights—Black Millennials for Flint or BM4F. The organization focuses on education, political activism, and coalition-building in African American and Latinx communities impacted by lead exposure.<sup>viii</sup>

#### Achievements

Adams' organization, BM4F, passed three bills in Washington, DC, and Maryland. The organization also appeared on BET's Documentary Finding Justice.<sup>ix</sup> Adams received the Women's History Month 2016 Spotlight for Brightest Young Things.<sup>x</sup> Adams' work has significantly impacted the awareness and eradication of environmental and social justice issues, especially in disproportionately impacted communities.



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<sup>v</sup> Lovell, Sam. "Spotlighting Advocates for Environmental Justice: LaTricea Adams with Black Millennials for Flint." EDF Health, February 11, 2021. <http://blogs.edf.org/health/2021/02/11/spotlighting-advocates-for-environmental-justice-latricea-adams-with-black-millennials-for-flint/>.

<sup>vi</sup> Meet LaTricea Adams of Black Millennials 4 Flint - Voyage ATL Magazine | ATL City Guide”

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<sup>x</sup> Prince, "BRAND SPOTLIGHT."