

## ***Unsung Heroes in Historic Sistrunk — Research Profile***

### **Mickey “Micky” Hinton**

Mickey “Micky” Hinton (1938-2020) was a lifelong resident and community advocate in Fort Lauderdale’s historic northwest neighborhoods. Known for his quiet strength and unwavering sense of justice, Hinton became a powerful voice for environmental equity and the health of his community. His perseverance helped bring long-overdue attention to issues that had affected residents for generations, leading to meaningful change and recognition for those whose voices had too often gone unheard. Though he never sought the spotlight, Mickey Hinton’s legacy endures as one of Fort Lauderdale’s true unsung heroes—a man whose courage and commitment inspired a community to stand together for what is right.

### **Louis D. Benton Sr.**

Louis D. Benton Sr. owned and operated Benton Funeral Home, for years the only Black-owned funeral home in Broward County. Located near Sistrunk Boulevard, his business served as both a vital service provider and a social anchor for the Black community during segregation. The funeral home provided dignity and local autonomy in end-of-life services, symbolizing community self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

### **Dr. William Alexander Morris**

Dr. William A. Morris was a family physician who maintained a clinic along Sistrunk Boulevard, serving the Westside community for decades. Known for his dedication to underserved residents, Dr. Morris bridged gaps in access to primary care and public health. His death was deeply felt across Fort Lauderdale’s Black community, where he was remembered as a compassionate and committed neighborhood doctor.

### **Ellyn Ferguson Walters**

Ellyn Ferguson Walters was a longtime Fort Lauderdale educator and civic leader whose work significantly strengthened the Sistrunk community. After a 41-year career teaching in Broward County Public Schools, including at Dillard and Northside Elementary, she remained deeply engaged in civic life and cultural preservation. Walters played a leading role in community fundraising for the African American Research Library and Cultural Center, helping raise more than \$700,000 toward its construction and ensuring that Sistrunk would have a permanent institution dedicated to African American history, culture, and scholarship. Through her leadership in organizations such as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Old Dillard Museum, and numerous civic boards, she championed education, cultural pride, and community advancement throughout Fort Lauderdale.