

## Two Beta Sigma Archons Recognized by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus



Sire Archon Michael Weekes



Past Sire Archon Vincent Jackson

Sire Archon Michael Weekes and Past Sire Archon Vincent Jackson of Beta Sigma Boulé in Springfield, Massachusetts, were honored with 2021 Massachusetts Black Excellence on the Hill recognition on February 26, 2021. The recognition was given by the Massachusetts Black & Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) during a virtual ceremony.

Sire Archon Weekes, who serves as president and CEO of the Provider's Council, was nominated by state Senator Eric Lesser to receive the award which celebrates black excellence and achievement in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"I extend my warmest congratulations to my friend, Michael, on this well-deserved award," Lesser said. "Michael's care and leadership for the community over the years has been consistent and unwavering, advocating for some of the most vulnerable children in the Commonwealth in his many years with the Department of Children and Families, and now his continued work as a voice for human-service and direct-care workers. I am grateful to the MBLLC for hosting this virtual event and for highlighting black leaders and trailblazers across the Commonwealth."

As president and CEO, Weekes is responsible for the overall management of the Providers' Council and its related foundation, the Human Services Providers Charitable Foundation Inc. His continued work with the Providers Council allows him to promote the wider community of families and individuals impacted by human services that support and improve the quality of life for so many across the Commonwealth.

Sire Archon Weekes offered the following remarks after receiving his award "On behalf of the women and men providing human services in over 185,000 jobs in the state, I accept this award as a testament to their essential value," Weekes said. "I am humbled as a recipient of this award from the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and very appreciative of Senator Eric Lesser, who is a champion of human services here and throughout the state, for recognizing the role the Providers' Council plays in building stronger communities."

Past Sire Archon Vincent Jackson of Beta Sigma Boulé in Springfield, Massachusetts, was also honored with a 2021 Massachusetts Black Excellence on the Hill, recognition given by the

Massachusetts Black & Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) during a virtual ceremony. Past Sire Archon Jackson serves as Executive Director of the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce and was nominated by state Senator Joanne Comerford to receive the award which celebrates black excellence and achievement in the Commonwealth.

“Vince has led the chamber and council throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis with grace and grit,” Comerford said. “I am humbled by his generosity and passion to help Main Street businesses, his unparalleled willingness to collaborate, and his commitment to and leadership focused on equity. I am beyond proud to honor Vince and celebrate his impact on our community.”

As Executive Director of the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce and the Hampshire County Regional Tourism Council, Past Sire Archon Jackson brings nearly two decades of experience in business, including as the founder, president, and CEO of Marketing Moves Inc., as well as a successful career at PepsiCo, Kraft, and Procter & Gamble. His background also includes an appointment as lecturer of marketing courses at the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst.

Under Past Sire Archon Jackson’s leadership, the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors composition more closely reflects that of the community, revisions to the mission statement were made based on diversity training and efforts are underway to encourage support of businesses owned by black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).