

Portia Roberson
Group Executive – Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunity
City of Detroit



Portia Roberson is a former member of the Obama Administration who now leads Detroit's Department of Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunity since 2014. She also chairs the trustees of the city's Police and Fire Retirement System. Previously, she was corporate counsel.

Portia is a Detroit native who graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1986. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1990 and a law degree from Wayne State University in 1993.

Upon graduation from law school, she established a private practice specializing in criminal defense law. In 2002, she joined the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor. She began as a trial courtroom prosecutor and eventually served as a principal in the community prosecution unit. In 2004, she became Associate General Counsel at the Detroit Medical Center. In 2009, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison for the United States Department of Justice.

During her tenure with the Obama Administration, she also served as the Detroit Lead of Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2), an initiative of the White House Domestic Policy office.