

James D. Gaston, III is a Budget Analyst for the City of Petersburg, VA. He provides a full range of financial information, analysis and support to City of Petersburg, Virginia City Departments for a \$102-million-dollar annual budget. He reviews and interprets financial reports of revenues, expenditures, personnel, operations, capital projects and grants to prepare projections for budget planning purposes. Additionally, he served as the Economic Development Projects Manager for the City of Petersburg, VA. He was responsible for development and coordination of internal and external communications strategies to help grow the economic development for the City. He managed the city's Economic Development website page and created the social media Economic Development social media accounts, which included Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. He represented the Economic Development interest for the City of Petersburg at community events and meetings. While in Virginia, he serves in leadership roles on the Social Media Committees for the following; National Forum for Black Public Administrators, (NFBPA), Central Virginia Chapter and the Rotary Petersburg Breakfast Club.

Previously, he was the Public Information Officer and Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Glenn Height, Texas. He was responsible for developing & coordinating internal and external communication and branding strategies to protect and enhance the values, goals, and image of the City of Glenn Heights Texas. He coordinated all social media platforms for the City including the website, Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor and Instagram. James was responsible for press releases, news reporter inquires, and created a ceremonial documents unit and represented the City in the community and at professional meetings; Councils, Boards, Commissions, Civic groups and general public. James successfully reactivated and coordinated activities for the Glenn Heights Chamber of Commerce. While in Texas, he served in leadership roles on the Social Media Committees for the following; NFBPA North Texas Chapter; Urban Management Assistants of North Texas, (UMANT); and Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers, (TAMIO).

Prior to that, he served as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the District of Columbia within the Executive Office of Mayor. His primary duty was to manage the Office of the Secretary (OS) social media networks which include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the six divisions on the OS Website. Additionally, he coordinated the DC One Fund, the Government of the District of Columbia's 33,000 employee annual workplace giving program. While in District of Columbia, he served in leadership roles on the Social Media Committees for the following; NFBPA DC Chapter; and both of his local chapter college alumni chapters.

Within local government, James has held positions that include Assistant City Manager and Director for an after-school youth program for the City of New Carrollton, MD. James began his career in local government as a Special Assistant to the Mayor in the City of Atlanta.

James has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Morehouse College and Master of Public Administration from the University of District of Columbia. He is a Life Member of the Morehouse College Alumni Association and the Vice President of the Morehouse College Alumni Association-DC Chapter. James is Past President and Life Member of the University of the District of Columbia National Alumni Society.

James has been a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators since 1999 and is a 2014 graduate of the Executive Leadership Institute and a 2003 graduate of its Mentor Program. James is married to Treneisha Jones Gaston, PhD. and has a son, James Gaston IV. He is also a Notary Public for the District of Columbia.