

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

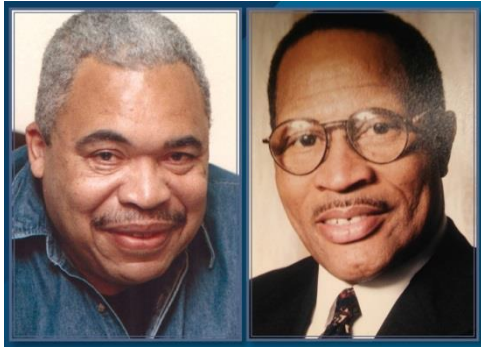
## PRESS RELEASE

April 27, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please Contact: Pat McDermott, (973) 733-7744, pmcdermott@npl.org

### **Former Mayors Kenneth Gibson and Sharpe James in Conversation with Guy Sterling at the Newark Public Library**



On Thursday, May 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. the Newark Public Library will host local author and historian Guy Sterling in conversation with notable Newarkers Kenneth Gibson and Sharpe James as part of its continuing series Newark Lifetimes: Recollections and Reflections.

Kenneth Gibson was born in Enterprise, Alabama, and graduated from Newark College in 1963. In 1970, Gibson defeated incumbent Hugh Addonizio to become the first African-American mayor of Newark. Gibson served as Mayor until 1986. During his tenure, Gibson won the U.S. Senator John Heinz Award for Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official, awarded by the American Institute for Public Service. Gibson was the first African American to serve as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Sharpe James was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and moved to North Newark early in his life, attending Miller Street Elementary School, South Side High School and Montclair State College. James serves as South Ward city councilman from 1970 to 1982, and councilman at large from 1982 to 1986. In 1986, he became the first former city councilman and second African-American to be elected mayor of Newark, serving until 2006. In 1999, James was elected State Senator for the 29th District, serving until 2007.

Guy Sterling is a former *Star Ledger* reporter and the author of *The Famous, the Familiar, and the Forgotten: 350 Notable Newarkers*.

The program will be held in Centennial Hall on the second floor of the Main Library at 5 Washington Street in Newark.

Also, on view before and after the program, on the Library's Third Floor Gallery, is the exhibit *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal*, which takes viewers on a journey through Newark's rich history from its founding by the Puritans in 1666 to the present day, and chronicles events that have not only shaped the city and the state, but the nation as well. Curated by librarian Thomas Ankner, the exhibit cases are filled with unique images from the Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the Special Collections Division. A dual arrangement of the cases provides both chronological and thematic approaches to the city's people, places, architecture, politics, institutions and education.

The program and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call 973-733-7793.

The exhibit, which is supported by the New Jersey Historical Commission, runs through December 31, 2016, and is on view during regular Library hours.

# # #