

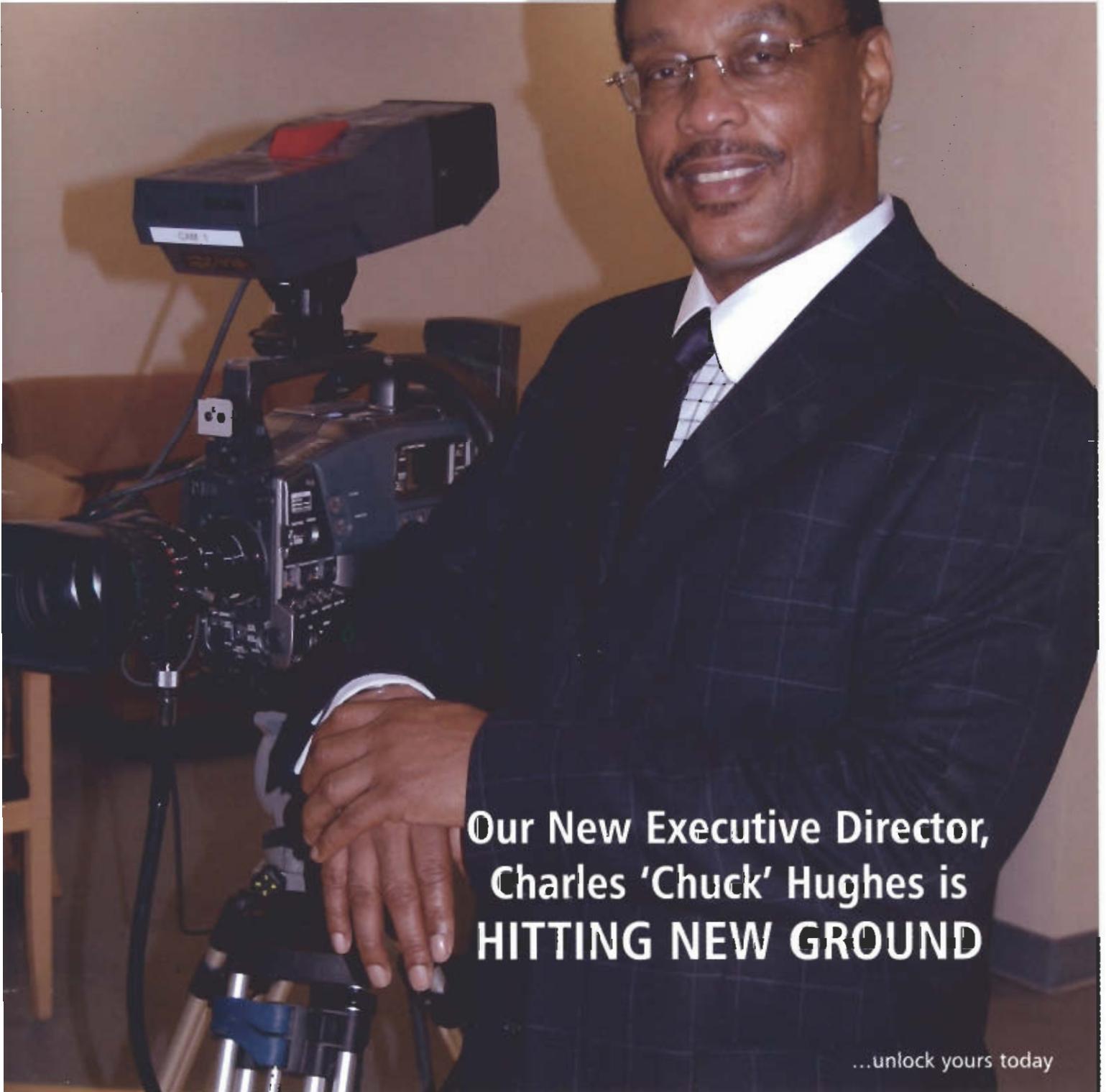
potential

spring/summer 2008

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**Our New Executive Director,
Charles 'Chuck' Hughes is
HITTING NEW GROUND**

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Chamber Profile

New Executive Director, Charles "Chuck" Hughes Hitting New Ground

Chuck Hughes served the people of Gary, Indiana for over 15 years by making a point of knowing what matters to people, and finding ways to get them what they need. His unique background of civic pride and public service are a dynamic combination. Under his leadership, the Gary Chamber of Commerce will take a fresh look at Gary's potential for economic growth. He can and will enhance and expand the Chamber's commitment to the business community of Gary.

Hughes has worked hard to support the growth of the City of Gary. He successfully ran for the office of Councilman-at-large in 1992, winning with the highest vote total in a first-time campaign. While a member of the Gary City Council, he served as its President in 1999 and 2005. He chaired the following Council committees: Public Safety (1994-1999), Planning and Development (1996-1997), and Human Resources (1994). As a member of the National League of Cities, he served as the 2005 Chair for the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Advocacy Committee.

Hughes joined the Gary Fire Department in 1973. During his career as a firefighter, he served as Public Information Officer for GFD (1994). He retired from GFD in 2007. He



also continued to work in the family real estate business throughout his GFD service.

In an effort to provide a wholesome alternative to crime for young men between the ages of 18-26, he started the Midnight Basketball Program in 1993. The Program continues to show these young men that there is always a better way. Another program, the "No Workshop/No Jump Shot" is designed to engage youth in activities that show them how to focus, set goals and work toward those goals.

Hughes serves on the Indiana University Northwest Non-Profit Institute Advisory Board and is a member of the Indiana University Northwest Executive Council. He served as Vice President of the Indiana University Northwest Alumni Association in 2005. He is a member of the Board

of Directors of The March of Dimes, Grants, Inc., Gary Neighborhood Services, The Salvation Army Advisory Board and Ivy Tech Community College Society of Innovators.

Hughes, the eldest of six children, grew up in the Tolleston area. His parents worked hard to instill solid values, a sense of unity, and an understanding of commitment. Hughes was a leader on the basketball court and in the classroom at Roosevelt High School. After graduation, he went on to play college basketball at Southern Illinois University; eventually earning a B.S. Degree in General Studies at Indiana University Northwest. He has been married for the last thirteen years to Dr. Danita Johnson Hughes. The couple has three adult children, and growing grandchildren. ■