



THE FORT LAUDERDALE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# CELEBRATING HISTORIC SISTRUNK PIONEERS

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

## WILLIAM & E. LAVERTA ALLEN

### BLUES KING RECORD SHOP, 1956 - 1973



### 1024 NW 6TH STREET. (SISTRUNK BLVD) FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

Brandi Simpkins, born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, proudly boasts, *"I am privileged to have ties to the Sistrunk community as my maternal grandparents Mr. William Allen and Mrs. E. LaVerta Allen were entrepreneurs who owned Blues King Record Shop."* My mother and her siblings hail Sistrunk Blvd. (formerly 6th Street) as the Black Mecca for business in Fort Lauderdale. *"My hope is that the Sistrunk community be a self-reliant African American community again as it was during the grand time my grandparents owned their business."* My hope is also for those who grew up in and around the Sistrunk area that have left, come back and sow seeds in this community by offering various services.

My husband and I are alumni of Dillard High School and Florida Atlantic University. We both serve vulnerable children and families in Broward County. With ten years of combined experience in social work and child welfare, serving our community is a top priority in our household. As a family we will join and assist organizations within this community with fulfilling their missions as this area has such a rich history.

Brandi and her family are moving back to the Sistrunk community, they have purchased a single-family home from the Fort Lauderdale Community Development Corporation (FLCDC) through the CRA Scattered Lot Infill Project

For the full story and more pictures of this Historic Sistrunk Community's Simpkins Family visit..



2021 family gathering at Smitty's on Sistrunk

full articles at  
[myflcdc.com](http://myflcdc.com)

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