## **Dr. Carrol Waymon**

Dr. Carrol Waymon is a retired Professor, Psychologist, Civil Rights Leader, Veteran, Historian and Restaurant Owner. The son of a Methodist minister, born and raised in South Carolina, Dr. Waymon is one of seven siblings, which included his famous younger sister Nina Simone, a renowned Jazz performer & composer. As a youth, Waymon sang while Nina accompanied him playing piano at local performances. Waymon's singing stint ended when a baseball hit him in the head and suffered tonal hearing loss.



Waymon came to San Diego in September of 1964 after the San Diego City Council made a request to the Los Angeles

Human Relations Agency to help San Diego with their race relations within the city. Waymon founded and served as the Executive Director of the Citizens' Interracial Committee (CIC), which was the city's first human relations agency, charged with convening community dialogues, identifying racial injustice, and educating the public about racial tension in San Diego.

Waymon was experienced with race relations having dealt with discrimination while he served in the U.S. Army, living in the South, and helping with Los Angeles Race Relations during the Watts Riots. Waymon also represented San Diego at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's funeral. Waymon and a group of diverse leaders accomplished a great deal to reduce discrimination from 1964-1969, but found education to be the most challenging for them. Among their accomplishments:

- Nullified or removed restricted covenants so that African Americans and other people of color could live anywhere they wanted to in San Diego;
- Wrote the first Equal Employment Opportunity ordinances for city and county, which opened up opportunities for employment;
- Made it possible for African Americans to stay in any of the major hotels in the county; and
- Made it possible for African Americans to be able to try on clothes in department stores and dine in major restaurants.
- Worked with the ACLU to change the school system, not only did the schools change, but soon San Diego had its first black superintendent, who was also a woman.

Dr. Waymon taught many years and retired with the San Diego Community College District. Considered a Humanitarian, he was the founder of the Black History (Africana Studies) Department at San Diego State University. Additionally, Dr. Waymon was the President of the San Diego Association of Black Psychologists. Over the past 50 years, he has given of himself to volunteer and help San Diego break barriers, and become a more tolerant, equal opportunity city. He's also gathered his letters, essays, recordings and photographs—a treasure-trove of San Diego history—and donating them to the SDSU Library, which represents the largest collection ever to be donated to the library by an individual. Currently, Dr. Waymon helps the Somali Youth United and serves on the board of the Jackie Robinson YMCA. This is by no means a full representation of Waymon's accomplishments, as they would easily fit into a book.