



Mayor Lillian L. DeBaptiste

Lillian L. DeBaptiste was officially sworn in to serve as the first Black female mayor of the Borough of West Chester in Pennsylvania on January 3, 2022. She's following in the footsteps of her father, Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste, who served two terms as the first African American mayor in West Chester starting in 1994.

Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste moved to West Chester at an early age, with her parents Clifford and the late Inez E. DeBaptiste. Graduating from Henderson High School, she matriculated to West Chester State College—now known as West Chester University—with a degree in Psychology. Lillian is a believer in the power of education, which was instilled by her mother and father who were both first generation college students.

In 1973, Mayor DeBaptiste joined the family business as a licensed Funeral Director and remains the President and Director of DeBaptiste Funeral Home and of Milestone Events.

Through the years, Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste has been involved with multiple community organizations. She has previously served on the board of The Chester County Community Foundation, Planned Parenthood and The Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center. She recently became a Board Member of Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Mayor DeBaptiste is also a founding member of the Valley Forge Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

Lillian's greatest treasure is spending time with her family. She shares five children and 4 grandchildren—her life's true source of joy—with her husband, Thomas E. Lambert Sr.

Mayor DeBaptiste's family, friends, and community inspire her to continue to work for cultural diversity, environmental initiatives, and racial and social justice.