



*Left to right: Traci Williamson, Devona Love, Demetre Muhammad.*

## **Black History Month Committee continues tradition through pandemic**

When Fare Collections Supervisor Traci Williamson joined Metro Transit’s Black History Month Committee in 2005, she joined a group dedicated to entertaining and educating people about Black history.

“It started out as a potluck but continues to grow as we up it a notch every year,” Williamson said.

The event grew to include people from all walks of life, from lecturers to lawyers to supreme court justices. And as the events evolved, the crowds grew.

“It got so popular that we began videotaping presentations 8 years ago,” said committee member DeVona Love, who works as a helper at the Overhaul Base. “Which is good, because we (committee members) would end up being so busy that we’d have to watch the tape after the event was over.”

Then the pandemic came, forcing organizers to rethink their approach. Taking the next logical step, they used video to stream content online.

“Traci is a rock, our cornerstone. This year and last wouldn’t have happened without her,” said committee member Demetre Muhammad, a Heywood operator.

Demetre joined the committee to be the event’s emcee and try out a few of his jokes, he said. This experience led to an idea to host a “Transit’s Got Talent” virtual showcase, in addition to historical profiles of transit employees.

“We’re all working toward the same goal,” Williamson said. “We hope that this event will lessen any loneliness and break up monotony.”

**The Black History Month Committee would like to recognize these previous members for their support:**

- Demetairs Bell
- Angela “Faye” Brown
- Donathan Brown
- Anthony Harris
- Tracey Jackson
- JoAnna Ocasio Riveria
- Chuck and Valerie Robinson
- Randy Robinson
- Tony Taylor