



*Anthony C. Marino* ('15) FOR NEARLY 100 YEARS MARINO'S MARKET HAS SOUGHT TO BRING FRESH FOOD AND GROCERIES TO THE COMMUNITIES WEST OF I-65 IN BIRMINGHAM.

ANTHONY MARINO IS THE THIRD GENERATION TO OWN AND OPERATE THE TWO STORES THAT ARE LOCATED NOW AT 2415 AVENUE E IN ENSLEY AND 1965 BESSEMER RD – THE FAMILY MOVED FROM THE ORIGINAL LOCATION IN FAIRFIELD IN 1953. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, HIS FAMILY HAS SHOWN A DEEP DEDICATION TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE RESIDENTS THEY SERVE.

DURING THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, MANY FAMILIES LIKE THE MARINOS MOVED TO ENSLEY AND FAIRFIELD. HOWEVER PROMISING THE AREA ONCE WAS, WHEN THE U.S. STEEL ENSLEY WORKS CLOSED IN 1976, WHICH, AT THE HEIGHT OF PRODUCTION, EMPLOYED ROUGHLY 30,000 PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES LIKE ENSLEY TOOK A MAJOR HIT AND EXPERIENCED A STEEP DECLINE IN POPULATION.

MARINO AND HIS FAMILY HAVE CONTINUED THEIR EFFORT TO FEED THE FAMILIES WHO LIVE IN THE AREA. IN 2011, MARINO ASKED THE COUNCIL FOR INCENTIVES TO BE ABLE TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE HIS STORES. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS, "IN A [2011] MEETING WITH THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, ANTHONY MARINO SAID THE FAMILY RECENTLY DECIDED IT WANTED TO CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ENSLEY COMMUNITY BY MAKING ITS GROCERY STORES MORE MODERN AND PREPARING THE BUSINESS FOR THE FOURTH GENERATION OF MARINO LEADERSHIP WITH ANTHONY'S SON, JAY. 'WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE WHAT NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY TODAY,' ANTHONY MARINO TOLD THE COMMITTEE. 'WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.'"

ALONG WITH THE BUSINESSES THAT EMPLOY NEARLY 70 PEOPLE AND ARE STILL CONTINUING TO GROW, MARINO HAS BEEN A DEDICATED CITIZEN WHO, FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, HAS SERVED AS CHAIR FOR THE PARTY WITH A PURPOSE THAT BRINGS THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS TOGETHER FOR FUN AND FESTIVITIES WHILE ALSO OFFERING A JOB FAIR, A HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PRINT OUT RESUMES, APPLY FOR JOB OR EVEN DONATE BLOOD.

"THIS IS A LEISURE OF LOVE. WHAT WE'RE DOING IS LETTING PEOPLE KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE AND WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO THEM," MARINO SAID, AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE PARK DURING THE 2017 PARTY WITH A PURPOSE. "WE'VE GOT THINGS FOR ANYONE FROM ONE TO 100-YEARS-OLD OUT HERE. IT'S INSPIRATIONAL IN ONE WAY AND AT THE SAME TIME A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY."