



# Chattanooga • News Chronicle

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Complimentary

## Chattanooga leaders gather on the steps of city hall to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day



The Rev. Ternae T. Jordan Sr. of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church (at podium), labeled Chattanooga's rising gun violence a health crisis. District 9 City Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod and Mayor Tim Kelly are seen in the background.

By Camm Ashford

Pastors, city officials and other Chattanooga community leaders gathered last Friday on the steps of city hall to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Many who attended the 10:30 a.m. event wore orange as they stood together to honor the lives of people affected by gun violence.

The national Wear Orange campaign seeks to raise awareness about the issue.

"We all must take a stand against gun violence," said District 9 City Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod, one of the featured speakers for the event. "Families are hurting. The effect of gun violence on our communities is pervasive, long lasting and impacts everyone uniquely."

The Rev. Ternae T. Jordan Sr. of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church, as well as other religious leaders, labeled Chattanooga's rising gun violence a health crisis.

"The reason we say it's a health issue is because of mental illness, poverty, the lack of opportunities," Pastor Jordan, who has funeralized

105 young people killed by acts of violence, explained.

"You cannot lock up poverty, you cannot lock up mental, we cannot arrest our way out of it. When violence happens to a community, you bury one person, but the family is walking around in a spiritual death."

In 1993, Pastor Jordan's family became the unintended victim of gun violence. His son, Ternae T. Jordan Jr., was shot in the head by a stray bullet at a YMCA in Indiana as he was innocently waiting for his mother to pick him up from a piano lesson.

Against all odds, Ternae Jr. survived his childhood shooting. Now 42, he serves as the assistant pastor, alongside his father, at Mt. Canaan Baptist Church.

Mayor Tim Kelly read a declaration to join cities across the country in proclaiming June 4th, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. He pledged to put an internal team together to come up with a new community approach for addressing Chattanooga's gun violence.

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## Gov. Bill Lee Sends \$44 Million Of Federal Cash Relief To Business Owners — After Axing Federal Aid For Laid-Off Workers



Gov. Bill Lee

**Sen. Heidi Campbell calls decision 'an immoral double standard'**

NASHVILLE—Gov. Bill Lee's plan to distribute \$44 million worth of new federal assistance to business owners employs an "immoral double standard" between companies and people who were laid off during the pandemic, says Sen. Heidi Campbell (D-Nashville).

The cash windfall for these businesses comes just weeks after Lee said he was opting the state out of federal assistance for Tennesseans who qualified for unemployment after being laid off.

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## Announcing The Dr. Melanye White Dixon Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Fund

Department of Dance Chair Dr. Nadine George-Graves announced the creation of the Dr. Melanye White Dixon Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fund (317146) at the Spring Informance on Friday, April 23, 2021 held on Zoom. The new fund supports diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the department. Dr. Dixon attended the event with her family and friends and accepted the honor after several colleagues and students paid tribute to her legacy. Professor Dixon is a native of Chattanooga. She is the sister of local professor and entertainer, Dr. Clark White aka Deacon Bluz; parents: the late Mr. Carl and Mrs. Nellie White.



Chattanooga Native Dr. Melanye White Dixon

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## Chattanooga YMCA opens new language immersion preschool in Highland Park

By Camm Ashford

The YMCA Language Immersion Early Learning Center opened last Friday at 801 S. Willow St. in Highland Park.

The center, the third to open for YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga, has one unique goal--to produce students who are bilingual before they walk into kindergarten.

With that in mind, the preschool will hold half the day in Spanish and half in English with emphasis on reading, vocabulary and language use in context.

The dual language immersion of the center comes from research supporting increased cognitive development among children when a second language is introduced.

"Fostering the potential of our youth is at the heart of what we do," said YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga President and CEO Janet Dunn. "And in this community, we have a great group of people who continue to show up when the YMCA has a dream or a need."



From left to right: Jessica Storey, YMCA Preschool director; Mayor Tim Kelly; Janet Dunn, president and CEO for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga; Pat Neuhoff, board chair for the YMCA; Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod and former Councilman Erskine Oglesby.

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