



**African American History Month-Zakiya Hooker**

Page 2



**CCA Presents: Epic Proportions**

Page 4



**Why Culturally Competent Health Care Matters**

Page 7

# Chattanooga • News Chronicle

*A Progressive Voice in the African American Community*

Week of March 3, 2022

Volume XXXII, Issue IX

Chattanooga, TN

Complimentary

## Freedom will triumph over tyranny': Biden's first State of the Union echoes themes from the Cold War



Presenting a unified front. (Saul Loeb-Pool/Getty Images)

It was a familiar scene. The president of the United States strode down the aisle of the U.S. House of Representatives to deliver the State of the Union address, the only constitutionally mandated instance of presidential speech. Usually, it serves to lay out the White House's policy agenda for the coming year, along with perceived accomplishments.

But as the nation tuned in for the prime time address on March 1, 2022, President Joe Biden had to do more than simply outline key domestic priorities such as relaxing COVID-19 restrictions for a pandemic-weary public, addressing the highest inflation rate since 1980, touting his nomination of the first Black woman to the nation's highest court and mobilizing the Democratic Party ahead



U.S. first lady Jill Biden applauds her guest Ukrainian Ambassador Oksana Markarova. (Evelyn Hockstein-Pool/Getty Images)

of the 2022 midterm elections. On top of this, Biden also had to respond to an international crisis he did not choose, and one that could come to define his presidency: Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

With horrifying images from Kyiv and Kharkiv circulating on social me-

dia and a rising death toll of Ukrainian citizens, Biden sought to articulate how the state of the union was linked to the current state of the world – and democracy's ability to survive in that world.

As a scholar of Cold War presidential rhetoric, I know Biden's choice of

See BIDEN Page 4

## Tamara Steward Named 1st Chief Equity Officer

Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly last week announced his appointment of Tamara Steward to serve as the city's inaugural Chief Equity Officer.

Steward's appointment is a key pillar of the mayor's plan to enhance the city's focus on equity and begin to bridge long-festering opportunity gaps in Chattanooga.

The position was created in part through conversations with the mayor's transition team as a way to help drive inclusivity throughout city government rather than limiting it to a single department.

"Today, the data tells us that Chattanooga is one of the worst places in the nation to grow up poor," Kelly said. "And while we can't and won't attempt to guarantee equal outcomes, what we can do is ensure that every Chattanooga has access to opportunity. And Tamara has the experience and leadership ability to unlock our community's true potential."

During his campaign

and term in office, Kelly has talked frequently about equity and diversity as both a moral and a practical goal, pointing to efforts across the business and political spectrum to involve more of the community in the city's workforce, decision-making and thought leadership.

Steward will lead the Department of Equity and Community Engagement, and will report directly to the mayor. In addition to the functions of the former Office of Multicultural Affairs, the department will also house the newly created Office of New Americans, which will work to more effectively include Chattanooga's growing Hispanic community in civic life.

"I am deeply honored and excited to join the city and Mayor Kelly in service to our community, its residents and visitors as we work together to realize his vision for One Chattanooga," Steward said. "Through building bridges,



Tamara Steward will oversee the city's efforts to create better access to opportunities for all Chattanooga residents, regardless of zip code.

removing barriers, and enabling access, I will work to ensure that Chattanooga is a place where all residents and neighborhoods can thrive and have their voices heard."

A native Chattanooga, Steward previously served as a leader in human resources for TVA, where she

See EQUITY Page 4

## NCBW to Host Annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Ball on March 12



The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Chattanooga Chapter, Inc. (NCBW) will be hosting our annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Ball on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at The Chattanooga Hotel. This year we will be "partying with a purpose" to raise \$25,000 for our "Reach to the Future" scholarship program.

Chartered on October 26, 1995, our Chapter has built a rich legacy of advocacy on behalf of Black women and girls. Our mission is to provide programs to meet the needs of women and girls in our community that align with the national agenda in the areas of health, education, leadership development, economic empowerment, and public policy.

See BALL Page 4

## Community Activist Marie Mott Accepted into Harvard Emerging Leaders On-Campus Program



By Camm Ashford  
"As the first African American to break through this glass ceiling, I am grateful to God, my fellow activists, my mentor and every person who's had a hand in my development," said Chattanooga activist Marie Mott on her acceptance into the Harvard Emerging Leaders On-Campus Program.

Community activist and organizer Marie Mott has been accepted into the Harvard Emerging Leaders On-Campus Program slated for May 8-13, at The Harvard Kennedy

School. According to its website, "Emerging Leaders is an executive education program that brings together renowned Harvard faculty and an international cohort of rising professionals from the United States and abroad for an empowering and energizing week of learning."

Using "a cutting-edge pedagogy," the program aims to ensure that attendees "gain the skills and strategic frameworks necessary to capitalize on opportunities and overcome obstacles, returning home inspired to enact change

in their country." Mott has been at the forefront of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protest and public policy change, and seeks to be an inspiration for young African Americans as agents of change.

"I am so excited to have the great honor of representing Chattanooga in such a prestigious program," Mott said. "There is no way I would've ever been able to have this opportunity without my community. So many people have be-

See MOTT Page 6

INDEX			
Commentary	2	Health	7
Local	3-4	National	8
Churches	5-6	General News	9-12