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Complimentary

Urban League of Chattanooga Makes an Announcement That Will 'Reframe' Its Future



Chattanooga Urban League President & CEO Candy Johnson, (center, with red slacks) is surrounded by Urban League Board members; investors, community leaders, and supporters following the announcement for the Urban League's new and permanent building that will be located at 400 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

By Camm Ashford

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga last Friday hosted a reception for community leaders, supporters and friends to make an announcement that will "reframe" its future.

The economic and social justice organization is set this week to close on a new 12,000-square foot, \$3.8 million mixed-use development, located at the

400 block of E. Martin Luther King Boulevard. Nashville-based and Black-owned Slim & Husky's Pizza Beeria restaurant will anchor the first floor of the building. The Urban League and other office tenants will occupy its second and third floors.

"Today, I am proud to announce that the Urban League will take its rightful place in the heart of this city," Chat-

tanooga Urban League President and CEO Candy Johnson told the crowd of around 60 invitation-only guests during a 4 p.m. outdoor reception at Proof Bar and Incubator, 422 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

"This will be our new permanent headquarters. We're reframing for the future of Chattanooga, the future of economic inclusion. But this is just the

start."

The Urban League currently rents a building at 730 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Johnson said a new permanent headquarters had long been a dream of former Urban League President Warren Logan, who died in January of last year.

See Urban Page 4

DA Pinkston labels Silverdale 'One of the Most Dangerous Places in the County;' Chattanooga Clergy for Justice Seeks DOJ Investigation



DA Pinkston

By Camm Ashford

Chattanooga Clergy for Justice held a virtual news conference Monday to demand an investigation by the Department of Justice (DOJ) into violent crimes being committed at the Silverdale Detention Center.

"In June of 2021, we submitted a formal request to the U.S. Department



"We support police officers, we just don't support police officers who violate citizen civil rights and use excessive force on citizens. We don't support that at all," the Rev. Dr. William Terry Ladd III said during a virtual news conference on Monday.

of Justice to investigate a pattern and practice of misconduct by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office," the Rev. Dr. William Terry



Silverdale facility

Ladd III read from a letter delivered to the Hamilton County District Attorney's Office on Monday. "Included in the report was a request that the U.S. Department of Justice look into conditions in the Silverdale Detention Center, which is under the control of the HCSO, that have led to deaths and

reports of severe neglect, abuse, and excessive use of force."

Since the first of the year, there have been three rapes inside Silverdale, as well as a stabbing, an alleged severe beating, and reports of multiple

See Silverdale Page 4

Rep. Yusuf Hakeem Responsible for Passing Black History Bill & Other Landmark Legislation During 112th General Assembly



Rep. Yusuf Hakeem

By Camm Ashford

State Rep. Yusuf Hakeem, who represents District 28, is responsible for a

number of landmark bills passed during the 112th General Assembly.

Some of the bills include:
HB 2106: Black History Bill requires, rather than recommends, that the course of instruction for students in grades five through eight include curricula designed to educate students in black history and black culture.

HB 1459: Allows the magistrate to order, as a condition of release or bail, a person arrested for the offense of aggravated domestic assault to remain in police custody up to 24 hours when necessary.

HB 0720: Authorizes a nonprofit organization to conduct a bingo game as its annual event for purposes of the Tennessee Nonprofit Gaming Law.

HB 0722: Prohibits a county election commissioner from voting on issues that directly affect the commissioner's immediate family member who is a candidate for office; requires a county election commissioner to be recused of

official duties 30 days prior to an election if an immediate family member of the commissioner is a candidate for office in that county.

HB 0723: Requires the department to publish the guidelines for the best practices for identifying and reporting signs of child abuse, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking in which the victim is a child on the department's website.

HB 2565 (pending approval): Requires the department to develop a plan for providing remote use of the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children at a substantially similar level as has been available during calendar years 2020 and 2021 and deliver the plan to the health and welfare committee of the senate and the health committee of the house of representatives by December 15, 2022.

Rep. Hakeem served on the Chattanooga City Council for District 9 from 1990 to 2006, and again from 2013 to

2017. During this time, he founded the Chattanooga Youth Council, now called the Mayor's Youth Council.

In 2018, Hakeem announced his candidacy for the Tennessee House of Representatives District 28. He was endorsed by the retiring state representative JoAnne Favors, who said in a public release, "Yusuf Hakeem is the right person for the job... He has years of experience in public service, and would not face a learning curve as a first time elected official. He is prepared for the work now."

Rep. Hakeem won the contested Democratic primary on August 2, 2018, and later was elected to the office on November 6, 2018, defeating Lemon Williams, Jr.

INDEX

Commentary	2	National	8
Local/Regional	3-4	General News	9
Health	5	Business Mall	10
Churches	6-7	General News	11-12