



C/O Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity

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FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

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PRESS RELEASE

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity To Host Safer Summer In Philly Weekend of Action Summit

PHILADELPHIA PA---The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity will host a “Safer Summer In Philly, Weekend of Action coming up June 2nd – June 4th. In it’s ongoing effort to make a difference in addressing violence in Philadelphia, the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity has been planning this weekend of action for several months. Reverend Robert Collier, Sr. says the purpose of the series of events they will host is three-fold; Black Clergy wants people to remember the power of prayer. Praying is essential in all we do. They also will bring together community leaders, elected officials and education leaders with everyday citizens, to share resource information and summer agendas in terms of what is available for youth to keep them in positive programs over the next three months, etc. The event is also to demonstrate that community organizations can in fact work with law enforcement and elected officials to make for positive change.

Reverend Collier stated, “Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity's *A Safer Summer In Philly Weekend of Action* allows us to focus on keeping our city safer this summer. We want to do all that we can to insure that there is less violence of ALL types, which includes car jackings, physical assaults, and of course, gun violence, during the summer months. It is very intentional that we will begin with prayer on this Friday, June 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Octavius V. Catto Statue and end with the call for all churches to have altar prayers during their worship services on Sunday, June 4, 2023, praying for an end to violence of all types. Our main event will occur on Saturday, June 3, 2023, with our *Safer Summer In Philly Summit* beginning at 10:00 AM at Zion Baptist Church with the opportunity for many stakeholders to come together to discuss their roles in keeping Philly safer this summer. I am so elated that our main guest on Saturday will be Democratic Mayoral Candidate Cherelle Parker who will discuss her vision for keeping our city safer. Another esteemed guest on Saturday will be Superintendent Tony Watlington to discuss the School District of Philadelphia's safety plans for the summer. We urge all Philadelphians to join us on both Friday and Saturday to help make a difference and bring about positive change...”

On Saturday June 3rd, the Black Clergy will have a full day summit, “A Safer Summer In Philadelphia,” starting at 10:00 a.m. The summit will take place at Zion Baptist Church at the

corner of Broad and Venango in North Philadelphia. The Summit will focus on opportunities for community organizations, faith-based organizations, elected officials, and other stakeholders to present their plans for collaborating with others to keep Philadelphia as safe as possible over the summer of 2023. Two of the special guest speakers who will participate in the summit include Democratic Mayoral nominee Cherelle L. Parker and Dr. Tony Watlington, Superintendent of Philadelphia Public Schools.

On Sunday June 4th, Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity is encouraging churches of all denominations to have alter calls with a focus on prayers for a safer summer in Philadelphia. The Black Clergy is asking that Pastors include a message about peace and talking things out, rather than resorting to violence when issues come up.

Planned by the Education committee and the Criminal Justice committee of the Black Clergy organizations, Reverend Maxcine Collier, co-chair of the education committee commented, “As COO of Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity and one of the Co-Chairs of A Safer Summer In Philly Weekend of Action, I am elated that we are coming together to pray and then engage in dialogue about specific actions that various stakeholders are planning to implement to make Philadelphia safer for all who live in and visit our great city this summer. We want to especially insure that our young people have many positive experiences to engage in to keep them off of the streets and enhance their spiritual, intellectual and mental growth this summer. We encourage everyone to come out and join us on Friday and Saturday and become a part of the solution to the escalating violence in Philadelphia.”

Reverend Gregory Holston, Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee of the Black Clergy added, “Weekend of action is an opportunity to come together first for spiritual strengthening, and secondly, to make sure we understand all that is going on to address Gun Violence this summer. We hope out of this weekend of action people will be encouraged and take back to the communities, the resources that are available for them to fight Gun Violence in their own communities.”

These events are free and open to the public. We welcome your media coverage.

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