



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Karl F. Dean
Mayor

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Metropolitan Action Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nearly 600 Executives and Community Leaders to Meet on Effects of Poverty in Nashville *Mayor of Nashville Expects City-Wide Plan to Reduce Poverty as Result of Initiative*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Approximately 550 people are registered to attend the Nashville Poverty Symposium on Monday, September 22 at 7:58 a.m. at the Nashville Convention Center. This event is hosted by the Metropolitan Action Commission and the Nashville Chamber Public Benefit Foundation.

The focus of this event is to pull together a cross section of residents, businesses, organizations, community groups, faith-based and government agencies to begin the process of creating a city-wide plan to reduce poverty.

Various presenters will offer examples of what is being done currently in Nashville as well as some of the gaps that exists. The presenters will be followed by a panel, consisting of residents who have utilized various services and programs that will give their perspective on how programs could be more helpful.

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean will challenge businesses, residents, government agencies and community groups to commit to an action group on one of the key areas presented at the symposium. The information gathered will assist with creating a city-wide plan to reduce poverty in Nashville. These groups will convene in various locations throughout the city after the symposium.

Nashville's Poverty Symposium Agenda-Monday, September 22

7:58 Welcome

Howard Gentry, CEO, Nashville Chamber Public Benefit Foundation

8:05 Challenge and Purpose & Framing the Conversation about Poverty

The Honorable Karl Dean, Mayor of Nashville and Davidson County
Ralph Schulz, President & CEO of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce

8:20 Preview of the face of poverty in Nashville

Dan Cornfield, President, Vanderbilt Center for Nashville Studies
The Economic Perspective
Cynthia Croom and Ralph Schulz

9:15 The Social Justice/Moral Perspective

Father Charles Strobel, Director of the Campus for Human Development

9:45 What's currently being done in Nashville

Moderator: Councilman Jerry Maynard, Councilman at Large- Metro Council

- **Housing**-Chris McCarthy (Nashville Habitat for Humanity)
- **Healthcare**-Dr. Wayne Riley (Meharry Medical College)
- **Food**-Matthew Bourlakes, Second Harvest Food Bank
- **Childcare**-Joyce Searcy (Bethlehem Centers)
- **Economic Opportunity**-Charlie Williams (Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development)
- **Neighborhood Development**-Mike Hodge (Neighborhood Resource Centers)
- **Workforce Development**-Paul Haynes (Nashville Career advancement Center)

10:45 The Community Perspective

Moderator: Brenda Wynn, Community Outreach Director, Office of Congressman Jim Cooper

Kevin Rankins, Preschool Father; **Sharon Greer and Jennifer Milam**, Food Bank Customer; **Carlotta Davis and Tomika Washington**, GED Graduates; **Wynona Lurie**, Energy Assistance Customer and **Monroe Simmons**, small business owner (former student at a local community entrepreneurship program)

11:45 Keynote Presentation

William Porro, ACCESS Miami Project

This initiative unites City resources with similar resources available in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, to offer tools and education that enable City residents to improve their quality of life. Mr. Porro will share how this initiative is now the city's poverty reduction plan

12:30 Call to Action

Avi Poster, Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville
Robert McNeilly, II, Chairman of the Metropolitan Action Commission Board of Commissioners
Howard Gentry, CEO, Nashville Chamber Public Benefit Foundation

12:45 Closing Remarks

Howard Gentry, CEO, Nashville Chamber Public Benefit Foundation

Event Sponsors:

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