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# Chattanooga • News Chronicle

A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

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Complimentary

## Mayor Kelly appoints Chris Sands as Director of Community Engagement

By Camm Ashford



Chris Sands, educator and prominent leader in the Chattanooga faith community, was named director of Community Engagement for the City of Chattanooga

Mayor Tim Kelly recently announced the appointment of Chris Sands, educator and prominent leader in Chattanooga's local faith community, as the city's director of Community Engagement.

Sands began his position on Dec. 17.

"I am delighted to welcome Chris to our team at City Hall," Mayor Kelly said. "With his heart for helping people and his persistent and reassuring presence throughout our community, I'm confident Chris will help ensure that we're engaging--not just informing--every citizen in every one of our great neighborhoods."

As director of Community Engagement, Sands will work closely with the Chief Equity Officer to ensure city of Chattanooga initiatives are reaching and engaging residents of every ethnicity, background and zip code.

Sands is a longtime pillar of Chattanooga's faith community, serving as Youth Pastor and first assistant to Bishop Kevin Adams at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

With a background in leadership studies, he has worked for more than a decade in program design, team building and community coalition building throughout thenonprofit, faith and private sectors. An author of two books, Sands has a proven track record in project management and coordination of team initiatives in business development, recruitment, and expansion.

## Hamilton Co. Health Dept. to Offer Free Flu Vaccines for Ages 6 Months and Older at Sequoyah, Birchwood and Main Facility Clinics

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – The Hamilton County Health Department is now offering free flu shots for anyone ages 6 months or older, at our Sequoyah, Birchwood and Main Facility health clinics on a walk-in basis. High dose flu shots, for people 65 years or older, are available on a limited basis and while supplies last.

The CDC recommends that anyone ages 6 months and older get their flu vaccine, if you do not have contraindications. Contraindications include children younger than 6 months of age, people with severe, life threatening allergies to any ingredient in a flu vaccine and people who have had a severe allergic reaction to a dose of influenza vaccine in the past.

### Health Clinics:

Sequoyah Health Center, 9527 W Ridge Trail Rd, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Also offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone 5 years of age or older.

Birchwood Health Center, 5625 TN-60, Birchwood, TN 37308

Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Also offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone 5 years of age or older.

Health Department Main Facility, 921 East 3rd St, Chattanooga, TN 37403

Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Also offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations for ages 5-17 at our pediatric clinic.

### Flu Pop-Up Events:

Super Carniceria Loa, 4816 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343

Tuesday, December 28th, 2021.

3: 00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Only for ages 18+

Details & Additional resources

If a minor is being vaccinated, a parent or legal guardian must be present at the appointment and bring current, valid photo ID. If you are a legal guardian, please bring proof of guardianship with you.

Call the Health Department's COVID-19 at 423-209-8383 or visit our website at vaccine.hamiltontn.gov if you have questions about vaccinations, locating testing, or if you seek isolation or quarantine guidance.

Vaccines are widely available in the community through a number of providers. Please visit vaccines.gov to find a vaccination site near you.

## \$20,000 Reward Offered to Help Solve September 25 Grove Street Shooting



A diverse group of concerned community leaders and citizens attended the press conference concerning the Sept. 25 deadly shooting on Grove Street in Chattanooga. Shown: CPD Interim Chief Eric Tucker, Reverend A. J. Holman, Mayor Kelly and Minister Kevin Muhammad. (Photo: G. Faye Stoudemire)

By Camm Ashford

Opening the press conference at the Community Haven on Tuesday evening, Minister Kevin Muhammad in a rousing speech blamed the city, church, Mosque, and community for 'letting our youth down and not providing them with opportunities that broaden their horizons.'

Mayor Tim Kelly, Minister Kevin Muhammad and Chattanooga Police Department (CPD) Interim Chief Eric Tucker announced a \$20,000 reward to help convict those responsible for a Sept. 25 deadly shooting. This announcement took place Tuesday, December 21st during a press conference at 3:15 p.m., held in front of Community Haven at 815 North Hickory Street.

The September 25th Grove Street shooting killed two women and injured five others.

Minister Muhammad, the president of Community Haven, said his organization has raised a \$10,000 reward for information on the Grove Street shooting. Mayor Kelly said the city will match the Community Haven's \$10,000 donation, for a total reward of \$20,000.

One of the most devastating and impactful gun-violence incidents in Chattanooga's recent history, September's Grove Street shooting has received widespread publicity and community visibility, but no arrests have yet been made--as CPD detectives need more corroborating information and cooperation from eyewitnesses that could help bring suspects to justice.

Detectives with CPD Violent Crimes Unit and victims' families have been pleading with community



Top: Unidentified concerned citizen (standing) and NAACP President Ann Jones-Pierre (seated). Bottom: Parent/former police officer who lost her son to gun violence gave a passionate plea for help. (Photos: G. Faye Stoudemire)

members who have any information about those responsible for the deadly shooting, to come forward and help investigators make an arrest.

Minister Muhammad implored the community to reach out and protect Black women.

"Malcolm X was right," he said. "The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black woman."

Minister Muhammad said the reward could climb, as Community Haven still has a donation page available

for people to continue giving funds. Mayor Kelly said his office and CPD will offer support to whoever comes forward with information and are working on a plan to protect them.

For more information, call (423) 206-2866. (CNC John Edwards, III, contributed to this story)

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