

LOCAL / REGIONAL

Who will the Chattanooga City Council Choose to Serve in the District 8 Seat?

By Reverend Ann J. Pierre, President, Chattanooga-Hamilton County NAACP

Recently the matter of a vacant seat on the Chattanooga City Council came to the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The City Charter is clear that the City Council shall vote to install a new person once the seat is officially vacated, but what are the criteria for the selection of another person? Will the community seek to make recommendations to the City Council? Based upon the standard that each council member is representative of a specific group, it might seem prudent to seek the advice of the community that is representative of the district.

Should the most recent history of replacing a vacancy be the guiding force for the upcoming vacancy? The process that guided the filling of the seat vacated by John "Duke" Franklin, Jr. seems to represent the thoughts and the charter of the City Council at that time.

These questions and others are legitimate but cannot be answered by the NAACP. The NAACP as a representative group in the community of all districts, therefore call upon the government entity to be open and responsive to the community for the good of the community.

Freeman named "man of the year" cont'd.

wood-based business Haury & Smith Contractors Inc., said he could not recall anything specific "where [Freeman] asked for something that he did not receive."

"Our job is to turn out students who can make a better living," Smith said. "Our No. 1 goal is to increase our graduation rate," Smith said. "I'm not aware of racism on our campus. If somebody is, I urge them — we have a hotline and all kinds of ways to report it. I'd encourage anybody, if they know of a specific instance, to give it to us so we can respond."

The Tribune wonders how many Black MTSU students, past or present, Smith has spoken with to issue such a statement about racial issues at the university. Freeman is both an MTSU undergraduate and master's degree holder. He's in touch with how 21st century Black students feel. His words on the subject should be taken far more seriously than those of some distanced businessman.

Meanwhile, here are some facts for McPhee and Smith. The population of Black full-time undergraduates has fallen 23% from fall 2015 compared to fall 2020,

a drop of more than 800 students. The falloff is even steeper for Black males who are first-generation students or eligible for federal Pell Grants because they come from low-income families, the Nashville Post has reported. Just 10.5% of Black males who were first-generation students and receiving a Pell Grant graduated within four years of enrolling,

Freeman previously spoke about this issue at the board's April Meeting, but he's doing more than just talking about it.

His new financial support will back MTSU's Scholars Academy, which has existed for the past 15 years. The program brings minority and/or first-generation incoming freshmen on campus two weeks ahead of the school year to better prepare them for college and boost their chances of graduating.

He's combining his money with matching funds from the board of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. Freeman has said he will spend \$100,000 and double the number of students who participated in the summer 2021 version. He will also offer some of them internships at companies in

which he's an investor.

"The goal is for them to feel attached to this university, to feel that they belong," Freeman added. "The subtle racism, the microaggressions ... are not limited to this board room. It's impacting people of color, [and] poor white people, across this campus."

Freeman is two-thirds of the way through a six-year term on the board.

"I have never been on a board — I have never been on a board — where I received so many microaggressions, from not being recognized to speak to being told 'I've heard enough from you' ... to administrators rolling their eyes when I speak," Freeman said. "You can hush me up on this board all you want. ... But I got my wallet. And I'll let it do the talking."

The Tennessee Tribune salutes Darrell Freeman as the example of someone with courage and integrity, as well as being willing and able to put his dollars to good use in support of his principles and beliefs. Nashville, indeed the nation as a whole, could use a lot more people like him.

IRS revises Form 1024, used by most types of organizations to apply for exempt status, to allow electronic filing

WASHINGTON — As part of ongoing efforts to improve service for the tax-exempt community, the IRS has revised Form 1024, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a) or Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code, to allow electronic filing.

Beginning Jan. 3, 2022, applications for recognition of exemption on Form 1024 must be submitted electronically online at Pay.gov. The IRS will provide a 90-day grace period during which it will continue to accept paper versions of Form 1024 (Rev. 01-2018) and

letter applications.

"Electronic filing makes it easier to complete an application for tax-exempt status while reducing errors," said Sunita Lough, Commissioner of the IRS Tax Exempt

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DeVan Curry is the founder and current director of ANCUR, Inc. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga earning dual Bachelor of Science degrees in both Biology and Psychology. DeVan then advanced to Georgia State University earning his M.S. in Urban Policy Studies – Policy Analysis and Evaluation from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in Atlanta, GA. Some of his accomplishments include:



- Developing Disaster Preparedness training, policy, and exercises for U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Through ANCUR INC, DeVan gained nearly six figures in Payroll Protection Program loans for his clients from the SBA, with a 100% approval rate, during the COVID-19 Crisis in 2020
- He has assisted over 200 small businesses and startups throughout the Southeast to become successful and profitable, helping others to achieve their vision.

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Demetrus Coonrod Appointed to Serve on National League of Cities' PSCP Committee

CNC Staff Reports

Chattanooga District 9 City Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2022 Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Federal Advocacy Committee. Councilwoman Coonrod was elected to a one-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy agenda and policy priorities. The appointment

was announced by NLC President Mayor Vince Williams of Union City, Georgia.

"I'm humbled by this recognition and look forward to working through these tough issues on behalf of Chattanooga residents as we push for real solutions to the public safety challenges that affect each and every one of us," Coonrod said. "The whole community must play a role in crime prevention, from how we raise our kids, to the education

they receive, to the training and job opportunities that they have access to as they grow up. Only together can we make a difference."

As a member of NLC's PSCP committee, Councilwoman Coonrod will play a key role among a diverse group of local leaders in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocating on behalf of America's municipalities before Congress, with the administration and at home.

"NLC's federal advocacy committees are a key tool for gathering insights directly from the communities that our members serve," said NLC President Mayor Vince Williams of Union City, Georgia. "I am excited to have Councilwoman Coonrod serve on the PSCP committee and look forward to working with her to fulfill the promise of America's cities, towns and villages."

The full leadership of this year's committee will consist of Chair Joel Navarro, council member in Tempe, AZ, Vice Chair Brian Kazy, council member in Cleveland, OH, and Vice Chair Willie Lightfoot, council vice president of Rochester, NY.

For more information on NLC's federal advocacy committees, visit: www.nlc.org/advocacy/committees.

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