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A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

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Complimentary

Celeste Murphy Confirmed as Chattanooga's First Female Police Chief



Chattanooga's newest Police Chief, Celeste Murphy shakes hands with Mayor Kelly following her confirmation with a unanimous vote of confidence by the City Council. (Contributed photos)

Compiled
The Chattanooga City Council made history on Tuesday evening when they confirmed Celeste Murphy as the city's new police chief. Chief Murphy is the first female, and Black female chief in City of Chattanooga's history.

The motion to approve Murphy was made by Councilwoman Marvene Noel of Orchard Knob and seconded by Councilwoman Carol Berz of Brainerd Hills.

Celeste Murphy was confirmed 8-to-0 by the City Council.

"I'm at a loss for words," Murphy said after the unanimous approval. "This is an extremely proud moment for me. I thank the people who are here, the city and the police department who have welcomed me, I am ready to serve you all 150%."

It is a position she isn't taking lightly. Chief Murphy sees Chattanooga as a long-term project, and not a three or four-year term.

"I chose this profession, one, to serve. I built my career around this particular day, being a police chief, because I wanted to be able to have my own department and share my views, and those things don't happen overnight. The issues that we're dealing with didn't happen overnight, but I'm a fixer. I love seeing the completion of my work. I'm here to work with the citizens for as long as it takes and as long as you'll have me."

During an interview with Channel 12 as well as a story televised recently on WRCB-Channel 12 about an unsolved case concerning multiple shootings last year (September 2021) on Grove Street, Chief Murphy responded.

"That particular story, in fact, has been one of the priorities that I want to look into. See how the investigation was run, see if there's anything I can shed light on and help further the investigation – assist with the investigation. See if there's any resources I can bring to the table that I can help assist with that, but I need to look into it and see the nuances of the story, but it's definitely in the forefront of one of the things I want to do initially."

"We need the community and the community needs us to react in a way they see fit. It goes back to getting into the community, letting them see me, develop that trust by showing that I care. Let's get back to where we're working together with the community, and the community sees us in a different light. The community has lost trust, and, for a lot of reasons, they're right. I want to be a part of making that right again."

According to Chief Murphy and the police communications director, one of her first orders of business will be to go into the College Hill Court Apartments and meet people face-to-face.

NAACP calls for humane treatment of Blacks during Russia's attack on Ukraine



Left: Reports have recently surfaced of discriminatory behavior towards immigrants from the African diaspora and other people of color seeking to flee Russian aggression against Ukraine. Right: Ukrainian refugees rush to the Slovak border fleeing Russian aggression against Ukraine. (Contributed Photos)

By Camm Ashford
In wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the NAACP is calling for swift and proactive actions to ensure fair and humane treatment of refugees, with special attention to nondiscrimination.

"The inhumane treatment of African refugees is a sobering reminder of a reality that Black people across the world are constantly reminded of - in the eyes of many, our safety and well-being is of less importance because of the color of our skin," said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP.

"All refugees fleeing crises deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect, regardless of their country of origin or what they look like."

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Blackburn, Blumenthal Introduce Resolution Supporting Ban On Russia From Specialized Financial Messaging Services Including SWIFT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) introduced a resolution on Wednesday to urge the President in consultation with our allies to immediately remove Russia from specialized financial messaging services including the SWIFT banking system, and impose full sanctions on Russia's Central Bank.

"Putin is waging an unprovoked, tyrannical war against an independent nation. The United States and our partners around the globe must not enable Putin's delusions of rebuilding the Soviet Union or let him escape accountability for his egregious crimes. Cutting off Moscow's full access to SWIFT and other specialized financial messaging systems will ensure we hit

Putin where it hurts and further isolate him from the rest of the world," said Senator Blackburn.

"We must send this message to the President: halt Russia's selling oil and gas on Western markets. Access to financial institutions enables Russia to collect oil and gas sales money – it is Putin's economic lifeblood. The Administration rightly banned imports

of Russian gas and oil into the United States, but now we must work with our allies to stop these banks from facilitating sales to other markets. Putin and his cronies should know that Russia's unprovoked, brutal invasion of Ukraine will not go unpunished. I'm proud to join Senator Blackburn in this bipartisan effort of support to

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CHI Memorial & UTC Music Present: "A Speck of Light"

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. | FREE CONCERT | First-Centenary United Methodist Church



Erika Roberts, a poet and Spoken-Word artist, will perform a new poem she has created for this event.

"A Speck of Light" is a unique concert blending music, poetry, and spoken-word performance. Sponsored by CHI Memorial and UTC, the primary focus of this event is using the Arts to bring positive attention to behavioral health/mental health, and to a variety of services available locally for mental health. At the heart of the concert is a poetry cycle by American poet Jane Kenyon, titled "Having It Out with Melancholy." Dr. Jonathan McNair (Ruth S. Holmberg Professor of American Music) composed a new musical work in response to these poems, reflecting through sound-imagery many feelings and thoughts from the poetry. The poems will be read aloud before and in-between the five sections of the music.

Erika Roberts will perform a new

Spoken-Word piece she created for this event, and the UTC Women's Chorale will also perform. Chyela Rowe, Director of Arts Therapies and Well-being at CHI Memorial, will give a brief address on creativity and mental health.

Performers: The Unheard-of/Ensemble, based in New York, including Clarinet, Violin, Cello, and Piano. They are "a group that has been doing more than their part to inject vitality into the new music scene for the last few years" (Jeremy Shatan, "An Earful.")

~Erika Roberts, a poet and Spoken-Word artist, will perform a new poem she has created for this event. Erika is also a collaborative artist, and in 2020 served as a creative strategist with the City of Chattanooga, helping to shape an artistic vision and creative pro-

cess of the city's projects and systems.

~The UTC Women's Chorale, directed by Dr. Allison Allerton, will perform "Never One Thing" by May Erlewine, with percussion and piano accompaniment. Dr. Allerton is in demand as a choral clinician and presenter.

This event will be held Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at First-Centenary United Methodist Church (418 Oak St., 37403) in the sanctuary. Admission is free and open to the public. This facility is handicap accessible. For more

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