

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 21, 2019

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Mayors, Youth and Community Leaders Convene in Hampton, VA to Lift Up What's Working To Create Better Outcomes for Young Black Men and Boys

The 6th annual Cities United convening will highlight some of our partner cities comprehensive public safety plans, and reflect on some successful strategies being implemented to build safe, healthy and hopeful communities

Hampton, VA -- On August 21 - 23, more than 450 mayors, youth and community leaders will gather in Hampton to share effective strategies for reducing the homicide and shooting rates of young Black men and boys by half by 2025.

"We are honored to host mayors and their teams from across the country that share Hampton's commitment to making a difference in the lives of our young Black men and boys," said Hampton's Mayor Donnie Tuck. "Our partnership with Cities United has helped focus our efforts to reduce community violence and make sure all our children are safe, healthy and hopeful. I look forward to hosting the 2019 Cities United Convening in Hampton and showcasing our work."

The 2019 Cities United Convening, **The Journey Continues**, is a three-day gathering providing coaching and capacity-building strategies for planning, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive public safety strategies, that are grounded in equity, social justice, innovation, collaboration and youth voice. Mayors and their teams will engage in peer-to-peer learning focused on issues such as workforce development, criminal justice reform, youth-adult partnerships development and building healthy relationships between police and communities.

"During our 6th Annual Convening we will gather to reflect on our trails and triumphs of our past, renew ourselves and each other in the present, and equip our communities to respond to the future. While also uplifting our milestones and progress on the road to meeting our goal to reduce the homicide and shooting rates of Black men and boys in half by 2025," said Anthony Smith, executive director of Cities United. "We know that to effectively address the community violence that robs our cities of our young Black men and boys, all corners of a community must come together. We are inspired by so many leaders from across our country committed to our cause, and to making a real impact in their cities."

The convening will also provide an opportunity for city leaders from other parts of the nation to visit successful initiatives in Hampton, including the Promise Program at Hampton University and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Culinary Training Institute.

With over 130 mayors in its network, Cities United equips mayors and local leaders with the tools, skills and resources needed to reduce community violence by providing concrete support. Cities United 2019 Roadmap Academy cities, including Houston, TX, Knoxville, TN, West Palm Beach, FL, Richmond, VA and Hampton, VA will share their local comprehensive public safety plans to keep young Black men and boys safe, healthy and hopeful.

Homicides are the leading cause of death for young Black men and boys aged 15 to 24. Their experience with violence—whether as victim, survivor or witness—sets them apart from nearly every other demographic group, including Black men older than 24, white men and Black women and girls. Mayors and city leaders are uniquely positioned to identify innovative and effective solutions to address community violence that are grounded in social justice, equity, youth voice, collaboration and innovation.

The 2019 convening is being sponsored by Casey Family Programs, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, the Langeloth Foundation, the City of Hampton and local and national partners.

Media interested in attending should RSVP to Althea Dryden, althea.dryden@citiesunited.org by August 20, 2019.

WHO: Mayors, philanthropy and community leaders from throughout the U.S. including:

- Mayor Donnie Tuck – Hampton, VA
- Mayor McKinley L. Price, Newport News, VA
- Mayor Madeline Rogero -- Knoxville, TN
- Michael A. Nutter – former Mayor of Philadelphia
- Shawn Dove – CEO Campaign for Black Male Achievement
- Anthony Smith, Executive Director Cities United
- Young leaders

WHEN: Wednesday, August 21 – Friday, August 23, 2019

WHERE: Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum Drive | Hampton, VA

ABOUT CITIES UNITED

Cities United was launched in 2011 by former Philadelphia Mayor, Michael A. Nutter, and Casey Family Programs President and CEO, Dr. William C. Bell, who partnered with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Campaign for Black Male Achievement CEO, Shawn Dove, and the National League of Cities to forge a national network of communities focused on keeping young Black men and boys, and their

families safe, healthy and hopeful. Today, this movement has grown to over 130 mayors (and counting) committed to working with community leaders, families, youth, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders to cut the homicide rate of our young Black men and boys in half by the year 2025. These mayors are focused on restoring hope to their communities and building pathways to justice, employment, education and increased opportunities for residents. For more information: www.citiesunited.org. Twitter: [@CitiesUnited](https://twitter.com/CitiesUnited).