



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COPING WITH COVID, COMBATING RACISM, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARE FOCUS OF 11TH ANNUAL ARISE DETROIT! NEIGHBORHOODS RISING SUMMIT

Registration is open for free, virtual event on November 7

Detroit — The President and CEO of New Detroit will detail the organization's Declaration of War on Racism during the virtual **11th Annual ARISE Detroit! Neighborhoods Rising Summit** on **Saturday, November 7**.

Michael Rafferty will serve as a panelist on the Creating Equity in Detroit workshop at the summit. The event will focus on how organizations are serving the community during the COVID-19 crisis and what is being done to address social justice issues in Detroit.

Joining Rafferty in the discussion will be Bishop Edgar Vann of Second Ebenezer Church, creator of the Detroit Equity program; Ashley Clark, Director of the Center for Equity, Engagement and Research for Detroit Future City, and Yusef Shakur of the Michigan Roundtable.

The summit is free and features five workshops taking place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The equity workshop will be held from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Individuals can register for the summit workshops at www.arisedetroit.org. Community groups can also promote their programs virtually to summit participants for \$25 by registering at the ARISE Detroit! website.

Detroit Deputy Mayor Conrad Mallett, who is heading the city's community response to the pandemic, will be the event's keynote speaker. Workshop panelists include: Rev. Horace Sheffield, president of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations; Lydia Guterrez, owner of Mexican Hacienda Foods; Gerald Davis, president of the Thursday Luncheon business group and Kumar Raj, senior programmer for The Skillman Foundation. Representatives from the Detroit Police Department, Detroit Justice Center and Black Lives Matter will also participate.

Traditionally, the summit has been held at the downtown Detroit campus of Wayne County Community College District, attracting as many as 400 people.

"We thought it was important to have the summit, but do it in a way that would keep people safe while providing them with important information," said Luther Keith, executive director of ARISE Detroit, a

nonprofit community coalition of more than 400 churches, block clubs and community groups.

“However, we also felt it was just as important to address the special needs and challenges of the community brought on by the pandemic. That’s why we have themed it along topics that people are now coping with in the twin new realities that are gripping our nation – the coronavirus and the calls for social justice in the treatment of people of color.”

In addition to the Creating Equity in Detroit workshop, other topics include:

- Maintaining your organization’s mission during the pandemic. What are nonprofits, block clubs, churches and community groups doing to stay relevant?
- How funders are addressing their funding priorities to deal with the coronavirus and what groups need to know;
- Public safety and social justice. What is being done to build better relations between law enforcement and the community? What is being done to address racial and economic disparities in our legal system?
- Entrepreneurial survival. How are small businesses securing funding, revising their business models and becoming creative in order to remain open and serving?
- How churches, block clubs and community groups have adapted in order to continue to serve during the pandemic.

About ARISE Detroit!

ARISE Detroit! is a nonprofit community mobilization coalition of more than 400 churches, block clubs and businesses promoting volunteerism, community activism and positive media images to create a better Detroit. ARISE Detroit! has promoted and marketed more than 2,000 events held in connection with Neighborhoods Day since it began in 2007. For more information, call 313-921-1955 or visit www.arisedetroit.org. ARISE Detroit! is located at 5555 Conner, Suite 1233, Detroit, Michigan 48213.

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