

MOMS
clean air
FORCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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NEW ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE LAUNCHES WITH BACK-TO-BACK EVENTS: TREE PLANTING AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH LEADING AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADVOCATES

(Atlanta, February, 21st, 2019) On February 18th, “Community Rx,” a new environmental health justice program of the national organization Moms Clean Air Force, launched in Atlanta. With a focus on African Americans and African-American communities, and in partnership with impacted communities and environmental justice leaders, Community Rx makes its debut at a critical time in the fight to protect our children’s health.

Community Rx seeks to address and redress the disproportionate burden of pollution that harms the health of people of color and impacted communities. The Trump administration is eagerly attacking and dismantling pollution protections -- and the impact of these rollbacks will disproportionately harm African-American communities. With stakes so high, Community Rx is ready to convene and help mobilize African Americans to take action.

Across the country, minorities live in more polluted areas and areas with lower air quality than any other group, and Atlanta is no exception, with too many minority residents living close to pollution “hotspots” such as heavy traffic areas, brownfields, landfills, and industrial facilities. In response to these disparities, Community Rx is launching during Black History Month and in Atlanta, the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement. With on-the-ground events in Fulton County, where predominantly African American residents breathe unhealthy levels of air pollution, Community Rx is partnering with community groups and African American leaders to take action and learn about the environmental issues that impact our families.

Members of the media are invited to take part in our upcoming Community Rx launch events detailed below. **Our lively, family-friendly tree-planting event will provide strong visuals for photographers and videographers.**

PLANTING A HEALTHY TOMORROW: KIRKWOOD & ORMEWOOD TREE PLANTING PROJECT

WHAT: Community Rx is organizing to plant trees in the Kirkwood & Ormewood Forest area of Atlanta, alongside our partners Trees Atlanta and NeighborWoods, with a goal of planting 100 trees in one morning.

Press is invited to our informal media “scrum” with community organizers just prior to the event, at 8:30AM.

WHY: East Atlanta's urban forest of old-growth trees are under threat from encroaching development. At a time when we need trees more than ever to provide shade, remove carbon dioxide from our air, improve flood control and increase our region's climate resiliency, residents and environmental stewards of all ages will team up to help preserve this precious canopy.

WHEN: Saturday, February 23, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Rain or shine]

WHERE: Tapestry Community Garden, 973 Walker Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

**“COMING TO THE TABLE: MOMS, COMMUNITIES, AND A PRESCRIPTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.”
A CONVERSATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

WHAT: Leading environmentalists and social justice advocates will come together for a robust community conversation about environmental health justice and African American communities.

This community talk will feature these luminaries:

- [Shakeila James](#) (Moderator), Regional Field Manager, Moms Clean Air Force
- [Dr. Mildred McClain](#), Co-founder and Executive Director, Harambee House/Citizens For Environmental Justice
- [Na'Taki Osbourne Jelks](#), Nationally-recognized leader in engaging urban communities and youth of color in environmental stewardship
- [Rev. Leo Woodberry](#), Executive Director, New Alpha Community Development Corporation and Environmental Justice Chair, Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign
- [Rev. Michael Malcom](#), Community Development Coordinator, Sustaining Way
- [LaTricea Adams](#), Founder and President, Black Millennials 4 Flint
- [Tina Spenser-Smith](#) Ministry Consultant, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
- [Whitney Brown](#), Staff Associate for Communications & Administration, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

WHY: African Americans are exposed to more pollution and resulting health impacts compared to the population at large. We need to address how this disparity plays out across the country and in Atlanta. Our panel of speakers will address what it means to fight for and succeed in securing environmental health justice in our community at a time when health protections are under threat, whether from toxic chemicals to air pollution and climate change.

WHEN: Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Food will be served.

WHERE: Trees Atlanta, 225 Chester Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

NOTE: Professional photos available upon request.

RSVP to attend “Coming to the Table: Moms, Communities, and a Prescription for Environmental Health” by emailing Tonya Calhoun, tcalhoun@momscleanairforce.org

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*Moms Clean Air Force, a national community of more than one million moms and dads united against air pollution, is committed to addressing environmental injustice. Our **Community Rx** initiative works with African American communities to take a stand against environmental discrimination, hold legislators accountable for lack of resources, and advocate with communities on their rights and their issues. By standing with impacted communities, we are fighting for clean air and climate solutions to promote healthy children and healthy communities.*