

URBAN LEAGUE of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. *EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.*



PRESS RELEASE

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Urban League Appoints James Clark as Vice President of the Division of Public Safety and Community Response

In light of an increased need for public safety and more resources into our most distressed communities, the Urban League has announced the creation of a Division of Public Safety and Community Response. James Clark has been appointed Vice President of Public Safety and Executive Director of the Neighborhood Alliance for the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

“During this tumultuous time in our history, we felt that our most challenged communities are going to need increased support with food, shelter and public safety to weather the Coronavirus crisis and its aftermath. James has a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience that will be invaluable to the Urban League and, most importantly, to area residents,” said Michael P. McMillan, President and C.E.O. of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

“At this hour we must scale up efforts, organize around our most pressing issues, and build an infrastructure that focuses on NPL: The Neighborhood, Front Porch and reaches

the living rooms of families living in despair. We are ready to step up our game and meet the needs that run rampant in our at-risk communities. I look forward to offering the Urban League's expanded resources in the neighborhoods that need it the most," said James Clark, Vice President of Public Safety and Community Response.

The Division of Public Safety and Community Response will intensify the Urban League's efforts in at-risk communities to increase neighborhood safety through the Gun Violence De-Escalation program, the Neighborhood Alliance Model, the Federation of Block Units and Operation Clean Sweep to strengthen the St. Louis region's infrastructure in economically challenged neighborhoods. Residents will also receive health evaluations, more access to food, school supplies, clothing and employment services to bring valuable resources to their community.

The Urban League will also collaborate with a variety of other nonprofits, churches, community leaders and civic organizations to provide comprehensive care and services to the most vulnerable populations in the St. Louis region. "We need to be prepared to assist our at-risk residents to ensure at this time of crisis that their basic needs are met and we keep our community safe. James Clark and his team are a perfect fit combined with the Urban League's reach. James Clark and Michael McMillan have worked together for over 30 years. I applaud them for coming together to improve public safety and help to make sure our neighborhoods are safe, and the residents get the services they need." said Kathy Osborn, President and CEO of the Regional Business Council.

"Researchers must take a deeper dive. We have analyzed the complexities of our "human capital" crisis. Today, and moving forward we need a surge, an intense, aggressive, "boots on the ground" effort, to change the course of St. Louis, then America," said Clark.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis is the largest affiliate of the National Urban League with 250 employees, 15 locations and a budget of over \$20 million. Each year, the Urban League serves 100,000 residents in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Clair County, Illinois with 50 different programs in the areas of Economic Opportunity, Community Empowerment, Educational Excellence, Civil Rights and Advocacy.

For more information or to interview either Michael McMillan and James Clark, Vice President of Public Safety and Community Response, please contact Angelia Bills at (314) 704-6971 or email abills@urbanleague-stl.org.

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