



Shelby County Board of Commissioners

Suite 600 • 160 North Main Street • Memphis, Tennessee 38103

901-222-1000

Commissioner Erika Sugarmon, District 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Rashod Cobb, (901)222-1089

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

Email: Rashod.Cobb@shelbycountyttn.gov

VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION EXPLORES SOCIAL JUSTICE: ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SHELBY, TN—County Commissioner Erika Sugarmon, District 12, is pleased to announce her upcoming monthly social justice virtual panel discussion titled “Addressing Domestic Violence.” This event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 PM CST. It will feature a panel of distinguished experts dedicated to tackling domestic violence and providing support to those affected.

Panelists include:

- Gwen Turner of the Abused Women Services of YWCA
- Tina Fox of the Tennessee Coalition To End Domestic & Sexual Violence
- R. Romona Jackson of The Women’s Advocacy Center

“As we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, it is crucial to bring attention to the pervasive issue of domestic violence and the resources available to support those affected,” **said Commissioner Sugarmon**. “An abused woman is not defined by her scars, but by her strength to rise, reclaim her voice, and rebuild her life despite the pain she has endured.”

The panel will explore the critical issues surrounding domestic violence, discuss available resources, and offer strategies for prevention and intervention. Each expert will share their insights and experiences, contributing to a comprehensive dialogue on how to address and combat domestic violence effectively.

“I am deeply committed to fostering awareness and action during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This panel discussion is a vital platform to not only highlight the pervasive issue of domestic violence but also to inspire community-driven solutions that protect and empower survivors,” **said R. Romona Jackson, President and Founding CEO of The Women’s Advocacy Center**.

This virtual event is an excellent opportunity for community members to gain valuable information, engage in meaningful conversations, and learn about resources and support available for those affected by domestic violence. Join us for this crucial discussion and be part of the effort to address and end domestic violence.

For more information about the event or to register, please visit <https://bit.ly/shelbycosocialjustice> or email Rashod.Cobb@shelbycountyttn.gov.

About The Speakers

Moderator:

- Erika Sugarmon: Elected to the Shelby County Board of Commission in 2022, with 25 years as an educator, Erika Sugarmon leads an illustrious career. Actively engaged in community organizations like WILLOW, TN-WPC, SCDP, and M-SCEA, Sugarmon's extensive civic involvement includes roles on the Youth Village Council, Foster Care Review Board, and TN COVID-19 Health Care Task Force. "Always in the interest of social justice and equity."

Panelists:

1. Gwen Turner: A survivor and advocate in the fight to end domestic violence, uses her personal experience of enduring over twenty years of abuse as the foundation of her mission to empower and lead victims to healing. Through her work with organizations like The Family Safety Center, the Crime Victims/Rape Center, and the Shelby County District Attorney's Office, she continues to impact lives and raise awareness. Currently serving as the Shelter Coordinator for YWCA of Greater Memphis, Gwen's faith and resilience drive her efforts to restore hope for others.

3. Tina Fox: A native Memphian and great-granddaughter of a slave, retired in 2019 after 30 years with the Tennessee State Government, including serving as the first African American state Director of Victim Services for the Tennessee Board of Parole. She was nationally recognized in 2018 with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victims' Rights Award. Tina holds multiple leadership degrees and certifications, and is currently the Director of Community Relations for the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. Active in numerous organizations, she is also Vice President of TSU's Nashville Alumni Chapter and a member of Schrader Lane Church of Christ, where she co-chairs the Single Sistahs Ministry.

4. R. Romona Jackson: Founding President and CEO of The Women's Advocacy Center, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and supporting survivors of domestic abuse in Shelby County, Tennessee. Since its founding in 2018, the organization has provided services to hundreds of women and children. Romona, an attorney and retired business professional, is also a best-selling author and an active member of various bar associations and civic organizations. She and her husband Greg care for two children in Nairobi, Kenya. In her downtime, Romona enjoys tennis, reading, walking, and engaging in prayer and spiritual practices, while also speaking on domestic abuse and women's issues.

Virtual Panel Discussion Addressing Domestic Violence

Who: Commissioner Erika Sugarmon, Gwen Turner, Tina Fox, & R. Romona Jackson

What: Virtual Panel Discussion about Addressing Domestic Violence

When: Tuesday, October 15th, 2024 at 6p CST

Where: Register by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/shelbycosocialjustice>. Will also be available via Shelby County Board of Commissioners [facebook page](#)

###