

Justice is Love in Action
Capital Area



Justice Ministry

CREATING A MORE Just AND Loving COMMUNITY

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April 2025 Newsletter

Nehemiah Action Highlights

The Capital Area Justice Ministry gathered joined by many friends and community members on Monday, March 31st for the 4th Nehemiah Action. As seems tradition, the afternoon was marked with powerful winds that blew through the city. The largest number ever - 826

participants - attended the event! We strongly demonstrated our ministry of presence and perseverance demanding meaningful action to interrupt gun violence and to provide affordable rental housing for our low and extremely low-income neighbors.



JOIN US AT THE UPCOMING CELEBRATION: MAY 13



Gun Violence Interruption

CAJM has advocated for meaningful gun violence interruption since we began our ministry four years ago. We have rallied behind the Council on the Status of Men and Boys, under the auspices of the Leon County Sheriff's Department. Captain Lee Majors, Assistant Sheriff Brice Google and Chief Grady Jordan of the LCSO attended the Nehemiah Action.

The Council has used the focused deterrence approach recommended by CAJM to prioritize individuals for outreach, hard conversations and support for those choosing a better direction. At the Action, Executive Director Royle King shared their slow but steady progress as they build a cohesive team of key law enforcement partners and navigate the many barriers to doing this new and difficult work. The FSU Criminology Department is work-

ing alongside the Council to evaluate their processes and outcomes every step of the way. CAJM will continue to advocate for this program and its funding as the initial grant is running out.

Interim Executive Director of CAJM, Reverend AJ Mealor, presented the data we've been provided on Civil Citations. CAJM has challenged our law enforcement departments to meet a goal of civil citations for 80% of eligible youth. These citations divert eligible youth into intervention programs. CAJM is following up with the Leon County Sheriff's department and the Tallahassee Police Department to obtain

the most current data to determine where the percentage numbers truly stand.

CAJM network members should continue to SHOW UP to remind our officials that we are not going away. We are paying attention, monitoring and asking questions.

**CAJM WILL CONTINUE
TO ADVOCATE FOR THE
FOCUSED DETERRENT
PROGRAM AND ITS
FUNDING AS THE INITIAL
GRANT IS RUNNING OUT**

Please continue to share information on this issue in your congregations and house meetings.

Affordable Rental Housing for our Very Low and Extremely Low-Income Neighbors

Leon County Commissioners Proctor, Minor and O'Keefe accepted CAJM's invitation to attend the Nehemiah Action. Each commissioner expressed support for allocating general revenue funds for an affordable rental housing to a trust fund to provide gap funding to developers for rental housing projects and for supporting annual allocations as long as each of the commissioners remained in office. When Reverend

Robert Gibbs asked if they would support sufficient funding in the upcoming budget Commissioner O'Keefe responded yes to enthusiastic cheers. Commissioners Minor and Proctor both qualified their yes answers with concerns about the economy.

Commissioner Maddox who did not attend the Nehemiah Action due to a scheduling conflict, asked that his

motion directing county staff to work with CAJM on the affordable housing issue be read at the Action.

CAJM housing committee members are working now with the Leon County Housing Finance Authority and county staff to finalize our proposal for the June 10th budget workshop. Please mark your calendars for June 10th and be ready to attend this vital meeting!

THREE COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT
FOR ALLOCATING GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS
FOR AN AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING
TRUST FUND TO PROVIDE GAP FUNDING
TO DEVELOPERS FOR RENTAL HOUSING
PROJECTS AND FOR SUPPORTING ANNUAL
ALLOCATIONS AS LONG AS EACH OF THE
COMMISSIONERS REMAINED IN OFFICE



Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 PM
Jacob Chapel Baptist Church
2333 Lake Bradford Road,
Tallahassee 32310

LET'S CELEBRATE



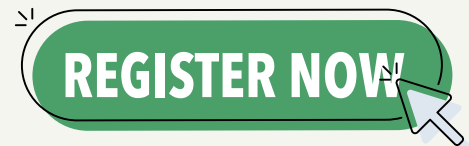
Upcoming Celebration

On May 13th, we will gather at Jacob Chapel Baptist Church at 6:00 PM to celebrate this year of doing justice work together. We have listened deeply in our house meetings, researched issues and have held our officials accountable for action on our issues.

This celebration is a moment to pause, to reflect on our accomplishments, look forward to the next steps on the long road to a justice-centered community and to invest in this work.

Please Register here:

<https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events-1/justice-ministry-celebration-3>



Welcome Bethel AME Church to the Capital Area Justice Ministry Coalition!

Reverend Michael Price shared this inspirational message at the close of the Nehemiah Action as he announced that Bethel was joining CAJM.

“And before I take my seat, let me share one more reason to celebrate — As of tonight, I am proud to say that Bethel AME Church will officially become a member congregation of the Capital Area Justice Ministry.

We’re not just standing beside this work — we’re stepping fully into it. Our church is joining hands with this mighty coalition because we believe that justice is not optional — it is essential.

And we’re bringing our prayers, our people, and our power to the table.

So now — go in power.
Go in peace.
And go with purpose.”





Capital Area Partnership Drive

We are reaching out to the business community for partnership opportunities. Would your business want to be affiliated with the Capital Area Justice Ministry Mission to create a more just and equitable community? Please contact Bryan Stringer to find out more: Bryan@capitalareajustice.org



Communications

Saskiya Fagan is keeping our CAJM social media fresh and current. It's working, we've increased our presence and reach considerably. You can help by following these pages and sharing their content.

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