

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Urban League of  
Greater Chattanooga, Inc.

### **ULGC & Sankofa demand that ARPA funds be restored immediately & calls out open meeting violations in diversion of funds.**

- WHAT:** The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga and Sankofa call for Hamilton County Board of Commissioners to restore ARPA funding immediately.
- WHERE:** Hamilton County Courthouse  
625 Georgia Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37402
- WHEN:** Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.
- WHO:** Candy Johnson, president & CEO, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga  
Rebecca Suttles, executive director, Sankofa Civic Engagement– Chattanooga
- WHY:** The Hamilton County Commission voted on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, to remove more than one million dollars in funding voted on and approved for ULGC and Sankofa, respectively, to advance their organizational missions as approved by the county commission. The funds were awarded by county resolution on July 6, 2022, and August 3, 2022, with resources stemming from The American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117<sup>th</sup> United States Congress on March 21, 2021, designed to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Treasury's Consolidated Appropriations Act issued a final rule in August 2023 for Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLRF) which ensured that governments have the resources needed to support the communities including support for "impacted" and "disproportionately impacted" which noted that disproportionately impacted classes faced meaningfully more severe impacts, often due to preexisting disparities. The funds were diverted without notice or discussion and violated Tennessee Code Ann. 8-44-103 and 8-44-105. Both organizations are requesting the funds be restored as a benefit to those they serve.

**About Urban League of Greater Chattanooga**

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga is an affiliate of the National Urban League, the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans and other underserved individuals to enter the economic and social mainstream. Since 1982, the Chattanooga affiliate has served many thousands of economically disadvantaged persons, individuals representing communities of color, and minority-owned businesses through programs and initiatives that promote educational attainment, economic development, self-sufficiency, and inclusive leadership opportunities.

**About Sankofa:**

Sankofa Civic Engagement Organization's mission and vision is to provide support, advocacy and education to black-led organizations who are actively addressing the disparities affecting Hamilton County's most vulnerable communities of color. Sankofa Org is grounded in the belief that in order for positive and sustainable change to take place in our community, it must strengthen its efforts to be self-determining.

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