



MEDIA ADVISORY

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Contact: Mike Nowlin

Cell: 989-450-0855

Gov. Whitmer’s Protect Michigan Commission, MDHHS, MTA and local churches to announce new partnership Wednesday that ‘will make it easier than ever’ to get COVID-19 shots in underserved Flint, Genesee County communities

PMC, local churches to deploy COVID ‘Street Teams’ in neighborhoods and high-traffic sites including MTA’s Downtown Transfer Center; MTA’s Rides to Wellness program also expanding free transportation to all Genesee County residents for vaccinations

WHEN: 10:30 – 10:50 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2021 | Media Q&A will follow

WHERE: Mass Transportation Authority Administration Building
1401 S. Dort Hwy., Flint, MI 48503

This is an **IN-PERSON** event with capacity limited to 25 people including media, dignitaries and staff. To attend, **PLEASE RSVP:** nowlin@gudmarketing.com. We ask media to please plan to **arrive no later than 10:00 a.m.** to accommodate the health and security screening required to enter.

NOTE: Face coverings are required and social distancing protocols will be maintained.

WHO: **Harmony Lloyd**, Chief Operating Officer – Planning and Innovation, Flint Mass Transportation Authority (MTA)
Dr. Pamela Hackert, Genesee County Health Department Medical Health Officer
Eli Isaguirre, Protect Michigan Commission (PMC) Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator
Dion Williams, Director of Gov. Whitmer’s Faith-Based and Urban Affairs Office

- **Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Moore, Sr.**, Pastor, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
- **Pastor Christopher E. Martin, Sr.**, Church of God in Christ
- **Pastor Jeffrey Hawkins**, Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church

Members of **Flint’s new COVID-19 “Street Team”**
Christina Zerka, 19, University of Michigan-Flint freshman and Flint native, member of the PMC Youth Advisory Workgroup & College Advisory Workgroup, founder of **Flint’s Save Summer 2021 campaign**

WHAT:

LIVE press conference where PMC, the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and MTA joined by Flint-area health and faith leaders will announce the kickoff of Flint’s new grassroots “Street Team” vaccination outreach enrollment campaign that “will make it easier than ever” for Flint-area residents to get COVID-19 vaccinations. The PMC will work in partnership with neighborhood leaders and ministers to deploy COVID-19 “Street Teams” in various locations around the city. The locations in Flint and surrounding communities in Genesee County will be determined by Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) data which show where residents are least likely to be vaccinated. The enrollment campaign will run 4 hours per day, 5 days per week. The campaign will operate on a rolling schedule in neighborhoods and at high traffic areas such as Meijer, Walmart, downtown Flint, the Mass Transportation Authority’s Downtown Transfer Center, Aldi, Sav-A-Lot, North Flint Plaza and Dollar General stores. PMC in partnership with local leaders have recruited, hired and trained the team of PMC COVID “Street Team” canvas workers who had to be at least 18 years old. **The team’s goal is to generate at least 50 enrollments per-person, per-day on the 5-day schedule at sites including clinics at Curative Labs on Saginaw Street, which is operating out of the Diplomat Pharmacy Building, Mott Community College, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint Northwestern, Grand Blanc High School, mobile clinics and local pharmacies.**

In addition, **MTA will announce an expanded partnership through its Rides to Wellness service that includes free door-to-door transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites throughout Genesee County for all residents.** MTA also will announce its plans to include expanded service to Mott Community College’s new vaccination clinic.

In further support of the Flint-area’s grassroots campaign, PMC will introduce **Christina Zerka**, who is studying biology at UM-Flint and is the founder of **Flint’s Save Summer 2021 campaign**. Zerka has volunteered to serve as one of the state’s new Protect Michigan Commission COVID-19 student ambassadors. The teens are urging their peers to get vaccinated and continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated.

INFO:

Gov. Whitmer created the [Protect Michigan Commission](#) in January. The appointees represent a diverse array of industries, professions and backgrounds. Housed within MDHHS, they are charged with helping to ensure every Michigander has a plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19.