



## Access Services and Get Help



**Our Mission**  
Partnering with you to achieve a better quality of life and a healthier community through engagement, teamwork and commitment



**PROGRAM**  
**BLACK SUICIDE AWARENESS & REMEMBRANCE VIGIL**  
 PART OF  
 "BLACK SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK" SEPTEMBER 10TH- 17TH 2023

**SEPTEMBER 10TH IS WORLDWIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY**

JOIN US AS WE **RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT BLACK SUICIDE** & REMEMBER THE LIVES OF **BLACK PEOPLE LOST TO SUICIDE**

**SEPTEMBER 10TH, 7PM- 8PM**  
 Candle Lighting, Balloon & Lantern release at 8PM

**MURTIS TAYLOR HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM**  
 13422 KINSMAN ROAD,  
 CLEVELAND, OH 44120

**NAMI** National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Cleveland  
**ADAMHS** BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
 NORTH EAST OHIO **Black Health Coalition** Educate, Advocate, Empower  
**mi** MURTIS TAYLOR HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM  
**MALE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

## PROGRAM

### OPENING PRAYER

Elder Michael Benjamin Ratcliff,  
EHS/Staff Pastor | The Word Church

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Lovell Custard, CEO, Murtis Taylor Human Services System

### SPECIAL GUESTS

Cleveland City Councilmember Deborah Gray  
Cleveland City Councilmember Kevin Conwell  
Councilmember Yvonne Conwell, Cuyahoga

### READING

Life Doesn't Frighten Me by Maya Angelou  
Performed by Heather Brissette

### LIFT UP THEIR NAMES

Community

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

Elder Michael Benjamin Ratcliff, The Word Church

### PLEDGE/PROMISE

Najma Abdur Rahim, Board Chair, Murtis Taylor Human Services

### SONG

Deborah Baker, Vocal Artist

### BENEDICTION

Elder Michael Benjamin Ratcliff, The Word Church

## A PLEDGE TO END BLACK SUICIDE

- » I STAND FOR LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY#
- » Life holds space for Black healing and Black hope
- » Together, we will shatter the silence and stigma of mental illness in our community
- » I will seek help without shame or reservation
- » I will foster healing within myself and extend it to others
- » I will fight systematic forms of racism, which devalue and demean Black life and create conditions for Black suicide to occur.
- » With unity and compassion, we will end Black lives lost to suicide

