

Greetings, Commissioner Bolter and Administrator Mr. Britt,

We are seeking an opportunity to meet and present to you and the subcommittee for Kent County's planning, response and recovery efforts related to the Covid-19 crises and the disbursement of resources into the neighborhoods.

Our neighborhood based organizing strategies fit ideally into the work necessary to support our neighbors and residents, primarily in the core or inner city of Grand Rapids, particularly in the 49507, 49506, 49508 and 49503 zip codes and throughout urban communities in Kent County, Michigan.

Our hope is that we can work with Kent County Government, to help our community respond to and recover from this pandemic and to build our capacities together, to provide the necessary services to neighborhood residents beleaguered by the impacts of this health pandemic.

Through the implementation of a Quality of Life Initiative and some of the other strategies we are proposing through our Neighborhood Associations and the collaborators with the Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force, we intend to interrupt the spread of Covid 19 and help aid our community that has been adversely impacted.

Please let us know when is the best time and date that we can present an overview to you and the Subcommittee for Kent County's response and recovery planning and share our plans and work objectives.

Take a look at the link below to explore one of our initiatives:

<https://urbancovidresponseteam.com>

Through the "Urban Covid Response Team", our work will include:

**MOBILE TESTING (ON SITE)** – We will build our capacity to test residents "block by block" throughout the highest impacted areas...individuals who sign up and request testing through our Urban Covid Response Team mobile app. We understand that the state has a goal set to test 1-2% of the population, our strategy would drastically increase our rate of success towards achieving that goal.

Please see the link below. We will partner with health care providers to develop these types of mobile testing platforms.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/newsone.com/3933104/black-doctors-covid19-consortium-provides-coronavirus-testing-for-philadelphia-black-communities/amp/>

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** – We understand and support the need for everyone to have access to PPE during COVID -19. Many residents don't have resources to purchase PPE, neither do they know where to get PPE. Education and reliable information as to where to acquire these resources has proven to be detrimental to large swaths of our community. We are offering direct services through our mobile unit, making it easier for residents to access Face Masks and Hand Sanitizer.

**CONTACT TRACING** – Through our website/app, we are able to survey residents, collecting data, creating a database of impacted individuals and providing testing and mitigation education to the affected. This contact tracing work must be scaled-up to have the maximum impact through community engagement strategies and tracing work that can be successful within public and private industry.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.marketwatch.com/amp/story/guid/513F4B80-93B5-11EA-91ED-88BEE36E663F>

**“Tell It Like It Is!”- P.S.A’s –**

Authentic communication with residents, timely and reliable information and a multi-pronged approach to deliver Public Service Announcements.

We will use our website and App for the Urban Covid Response Team to share inspirational and personal stories of how individuals and families are overcoming the Covid-19 Crises. Our collaboration and promotional and media partnerships with multi-disciplinary platforms will allow for dynamic messages to be sustained in the neighborhoods and through mainstream and social media.

**We will offer online mental health counseling, renters assistance and food assistance on request.**

The Grand Rapids Hip Hop Coalition and other local arts organizations with musicians and storytellers will work collaboratively to craft impactful messaging that targets hard to reach communities.

## **DATA WAREHOUSE**

The data warehouse will allow our community to gather at a shared space to inventory and access data relative to the health and wealth conditions of the Black community in Kent County.

We look forward to engaging with Kent County Government in helping our community and thank you for your time, considerations and serious deliberations about these matters.

Yours In Community,

-Victor Williams, President  
Boston Square Neighborhood Association

-Rodney Brown, Community Organizer  
Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force

### GRAACTF Collaborators

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Elder TA ELMIN - Michigan Black Expo  
Commissioner Nathaniel Moody - City Of Grand Rapids  
Dr. Brandi LoveLady - KISD  
Kimberley Williams - GRPS Board Member  
Dr. Rae Ann Booker - Metro Health  
Miriam Barrera - President Michigan State Wide Neighborhood Association / Baxter Neighborhood Association  
Commissioner Robert S. Womack - President SECA Neighborhood Association  
Victor J. Williams - President Boston Square Neighborhood Association / President Grand Rapids HipHop Coalition  
Tino Scott - President MLK Neighborhood Association  
Synia and Johnnie Jordan - Legacy & Love, LLC, Neighborhood Association Volunteers at Roosevelt Park N.A.  
Jermone Glenn - Pastor Revolution Christian Ministries  
Jerry Bishop - Pastor Lifequest Ministries

Dr. Cole Williams - Cole Speaks  
Terrell Daniels - Pride Construction  
Rhondo Cooper - Therapist/Consultant (SEL)  
Lyonel Lagrone - Social Impact Policy Institute (SIPI)  
Rudy Treece - President Michigan Black Expo  
Cory McIechey - Director Descendants of the Truth (Sojourner Truth Foundation  
501C-3)  
Tavian Moore - Former NAACP Youth Council President