

Written by Kathy

Tuesday, 09 January 2018 02:16 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 January 2018 10:54



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A MESSAGE FROM ACTIVIST AND JOURNALIST AND Clevelandurbannews.com AND Kathywraycolemanonlinenewsblog.com CHIEF AT

Dear community activists and other readers, (From Kathy Wray Coleman of Cleveland, Ohio)

I have been invited by Women's March Northeast Ohio to speak on behalf of the Imperial

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Women Coalition at the second annual event

on Public Square in downtown Cleveland at 10:30 am on Saturday, Jan 20, 2018, which shall occur in cooperation with marches across the nation that day, including in the capital city of Washington, D.C.

(Reach the Imperial Women Coalition by phone at (216) 659-0473 and by email at editor@clevelandurbannews.com)

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Last year's march drew some 15,000 people to Public Square in downtown Cleveland, but had only one Black speaker other than 11 Congressional District Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge. It was me.

I thank the organizers for the invitation and I accept the challenge, though Imperial Women Coalition is also an organizing group for this year's event.

However, I did request that other Cleveland Black women activists and one man be allowed to speak and got clearance. They are the Rev Cynthia Smith, associate minister at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Black on Black Crime Inc. President Alfred Porter Jr., and Dicie Princess Moore and Frederica Mayes-Gates of Rebuilding Our Village and Protecting Our Children, Black Empowerment Makes a Difference (BEMAD) and Finding the Missing. Also speaking, though briefly, is the family of 14-year-old murder victim Alianna DeFreeze, whose body was discovered last year in an abandoned home on Cleveland's largely Black east side.

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We were invited to speak by Women's March Ohio Director Rhiannon Childs of Columbus and Women's March Northeast Ohio Director

Kenyona

Sunny Matthews of Akron.

Both Childs and Matthews, who are Black, want Black women of Cleveland effectively involved in the women's march in Cleveland this year and Imperial Women Coalition is the only Black women's activist groups in this region. And we have been in the trenches with other greater Cleveland activists on women's issues, including rape and murder from the murders of 11 Black women on Imperial Avenue in Cleveland by convicted serial killer and death row inmate Anthony Sowell to the murders of three Black women in East Cleveland by convicted serial killer Michael Madison to the decade long kidnapping and rape on Seymour Avenue in Cleveland of Gina DeJesus, Michelle Knight and Amanda Berry by convicted and now deceased child rapist Ariel Castro.

We shall address, among other matters, politics and voting as they relate to public policy matters, consent
decrees for police
reforms
nationally and locally and what is happening since President
Obama
is no longer in office, the Violence
Against
Women's
Act, education,
voting
, jobs, reproductive rights, healthcare, mental health, and the
legal
system
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The Black women activists will also highlight the accomplishments of Black women in American history at the rally and march on Jan 20.

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Al Porter Jr will do a salute to the murdered and raped women, including Black women as to the Imperial Avenue Murders, Malissa Williams of Cleveland, and Sandra Bland, Williams killed unarmed by Cleveland police anxiously slinging 137 bullets, and Bland erroneously killed by police in a Texas suburb after a questionable traffic stop arrest.

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[Clevelandurbannews.com](#) and [Kathywraycolemanonlinenewsblog.com](#) , Ohio's most read Black digital newspaper and Black blog with some 5 million views on Google Plus alone. Tel: (216) 659-0473 and Email: editor@clevelandurbannews.com. Kathy Wray Coleman, editor-in-chief, and who trained for 17 years at the Call and Post Newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio. We interviewed former president Barack Obama one-on-one when he was campaigning for president. As to the Obama interview,

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