



THE CHARLESTON FORUM

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The Charleston Forum Hosting Evening Discussion on Race

May 3, 2017 - On Friday evening, June 16, 2017, The Charleston Forum will host a public discussion on numerous important issues facing our city and state. The evening will address racial issues in the context of four subject areas: economics and education, policing and criminal justice, the future of the past, and the Charleston experience.

Although conversations on these topics are not new, the conversations too often take place only among people who already share the same agenda. The Charleston Forum offers the opportunity for leaders with different perspectives to identify problems and propose solutions. The dialogue will be a step forward together, with no pre-set agenda but with a common purpose.

“I am looking forward to participating in the Charleston Forum this summer. We must embrace these opportunities to come together and listen to one another,” Charleston Mayor John J. Tecklenburg said. “It is only by gaining an understanding of our different perspectives, backgrounds and experiences that we can create a united vision for a brighter future.”

The Charleston Forum was developed over a year ago by the Charleston County Bar Association with significant early support from then-Mayor Riley, Mayor Tecklenburg, Reverend Joe Darby, Police Chief Greg Mullen and many others. The goal is to present an attractive line up of speakers, a true “forum” of different ideas, and an opportunity for citizens to voice their own ideas for solutions on the accompanying online forum which will follow the June 16 event.

A full agenda will be released prior to June 16 but speakers and performers include Kassy Alia, founder of Heros in Blue, the Paula Boggs Band with the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Choir, Former Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor, Congressman Jim Clyburn; Reverend Joe Darby; Margaret Hoover, author and conservative political commentator; Malcolm Graham, brother of Cynthia Graham Hurd; State Senators Gerald Malloy and Marlon Kimpson; DeRay Mckesson from Black Lives Matter; former Mayor Joe Riley; Reverend Nelson Rivers; Bakari Sellers and Mayor John Tecklenburg. A full list of speakers and performers can be found at www.thecharlestonforum.com.

“I am honored to be a part of this incredible event which will shine a light on important issues facing our city, state, and nation,” Brian Duffy, The Charleston Forum’s Committee Chair, said. “The conversations our talented lineup will have on June 16 are not new to our communities but are necessary for us to move forward together. Charleston has been the center of many historic moments in our nation’s history and, tragically, the events of June 17, 2015 are among them. Through the Charleston Forum, our community will be the center of a positive legacy of progress in race relations in our country.”

Tickets for the event are available now at www.thecharlestonforum.com.