



Heeding God's Call ***to End Gun Violence***

STATEMENT

HEEDING GOD'S CALL TO END GUN VIOLENCE ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER REP. MOVITA JOHNSON-HARRELL

On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at a previously scheduled Board meeting, the Pennsylvania not-for-profit corporation *Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence*® (*Heeding*) received and accepted with heartfelt prayer the resignation of Board Member, Pennsylvania State Rep. Movita Johnson-Harrell (Phila, 190th District), who is currently facing charges filed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General earlier this month.

Ms. Johnson-Harrell has been actively involved with since August 2012, volunteering in a variety of capacities in addition to her Board term. She and her husband, Yancy, are among Pennsylvania's most effective gun violence prevention advocates, following the untimely shooting death of their son, Charles, on January 12, 2011. Rather than be immobilized by grief, Movita and Yancy expressed their sorrow in a passion to bring an end to gun violence in our communities.

Heeding's Executive Director, Bryan Miller, who knows deeply the impact of the loss a loved one by gun violence since the 1994 murder of his brother, FBI Special Agent Michael Miller, at Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Headquarters, said: "For Movita to have turned her family tragedy into an active commitment and successful instrument rather than withdraw into the depths of sorrow is truly a testament to her faith and is a clear example of how we can bring justice by our response to God's call."

The *Heeding* Board is genuinely appreciative of Ms. Johnson-Harrell's integrity in her statement that "While I dispute many of the allegations lodged against me, I accept responsibility for some missteps made before I became an elected official" and that "I intend to accept responsibility for any actions that were inappropriate." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec 4, 2019)

Board Chairperson, The Reverend Woody Dalton of Harrisburg, PA, said: "We have no doubt about Ms. Johnson-Harrell's commitment to ending gun violence and we are convinced that her advocacy will continue to make positive changes in the movement. The loss of her father, brother, and son, Charles, has created in her an unmatched determination. We continue to pray for and with her, her family, and her constituents during this most difficult time."

During her Board service, Ms. Johnson-Harrell was not involved with any aspect of *Heeding's* financial management.

Though she will no longer be an elected officer or member of the Board, *Heeding* will continue to welcome Ms. Johnson-Harrell's advocacy and participation in its work, *insha'Allah*.

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

414 Barclay Road, Rosemont, PA 19010

251-238-8550

www.heedinggodscall.org

contactheeding@gmail.com