



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Takes a Stand Against Gun Violence

WASHINGTON, DC – The April 22nd shooting incident in Antioch, Tenn. brought the tragedy of gun violence directly to the door of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. when two of its members were among the victims. DeEbony Groves was among the four young people killed, and Sharita Henderson was among those critically injured. In response to this and the many other prior incidents of gun violence across the country, the organization held a press conference on Wednesday, May 9 at 10 am at its headquarters, 1707 New Hampshire Ave. NW, to “Take a Stand Against Gun Violence.”

At today’s event, National President and CEO Beverly E. Smith called for the Sorority’s members to “use the power of our Founders’ vision, the power of our collective voice and the power of our active vote to be the change we want to see.”

Joined by political and civic leaders, the Sorority introduced its policy statement on gun violence prevention, which includes the following measures: required universal background checks, the banning of civilian-owned assault/military style weapons, the prevention of individuals adjudicated by a court as dangerous to themselves or others from accessing guns, limiting the number of rounds an ammunition magazine can hold, the creation of a national gun owners’ registry, and the requesting of an impact study on the causes and cures of gun violence.

This is not the first time the organization has spoken out on this issue. A resolution, “Enacting Gun Control Laws to Curb Gun Violence,” was ratified in 2008 with subsequent biennial updates, and official statements have been released in response to many of the shooting incidents that have occurred, including the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the mass shooting at Sandy Hook, and the shooting inside Emanuel A.M.E. Church when we lost another member Myra Singleton-Thompson.

ABOUT DELTA SIGMA THETA

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has over 200,000 initiated members and more than 900 chapters worldwide. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs. ###