

DC Black Church Initiative

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PRESS RELEASE
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District of Columbia Black Church Declares Day of Mourning for the Nine Metro Accident Victims

DCBCI calls for a comprehensive investigation on every level of safety in the Metro system for the past ten years.

Washington, DC – The District of Columbia Black Church Initiative was deeply saddened and shocked by the news of the Metro accident and the loss of nine lives because of it. The accident was a tragedy that should not have occurred, and the loss of those nine people's lives is truly saddening. Our prayers go out to their families and friends and we offer any support that we can give to them. In light of the tragedy taking place in our own city, DCBCI is declaring a National Day of Mourning in order to honor those who lost their lives in the accident.

On Sunday, June 28, 2009, we ask that everyone in the country, but especially in the DC/Metro area, offer their prayers and thoughts to not only those who died in the accident, but those who were injured and their families and friends. DCBCI's 800 churches in the area will pray for all involved during their morning services and throughout the day. We would also like to use the day to prompt those who have become afraid to use the Metro system to conquer their fear and understand that this was a singular accident, and that Metro is a safe way to travel that not only is cost effective, but also helps the environment and eases traffic congestion. The day should also prompt Metro to make sure they discover the truth behind this accident, and do everything within their power to make sure nothing like it ever happens again. DCBCI will not tolerate the blaming of train operators or personnel without proper proof that they were at fault, and finds the fact that the NTSB recommended that the Metro's cars be replaced three years ago and they were not truly troubling. We call for a full investigation of the Metro board and an emphasis not to be placed on defense not offense on the approach to safety.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of DCBCI, said, “This is a particularly sad and tragic situation that faces us all here in the District of Columbia and around the country. Nine precious lives have just been extinguished in the twinkling of an eye. The DC Black Church Initiative expresses its sincere condolences to the family members of the victims, to the Metro family and to the entire Metro area. This incident has shaken our confidence and has caused us to fear the unknown, but as a cleric and one who believes in God, I must tell you we do not have to fear because of the eternal love of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. We vow to not let these deaths be in vain, we will be ever vigilant, that the truth of this incident should emerge and that we should have lessons learned from it. This continues to break out hearts and causes us to cry eternally for these nine precious lives”

About DCBCI

The District of Columbia Black Church Initiative (DCBCI) is a coalition of 800 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. DCBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. DCBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.