Press Release

For Immediately Release

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Contact: Elàna R. Frazier at 347-703-0083

The Columbia Urban League will host its 22nd *Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keeping the Legacy Alive Breakfast* on Monday, January 20th, 2020 at the Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center, beginning at 8:00 a.m. This year’s theme is *Economic Empowerment*. The keynote speaker is Mr. Robert L. Caslen, Jr. president of the University of South Carolina. In addition, democratic presidential candidates, former Vice President Joe Biden, Mr. Tom Steyer, and Senator Elizabeth Warren will be in attendance.

Since 1986, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has been celebrated around the country to commemorate the national civil rights icon who was the driving force in confronting racial barriers, economic injustices, and the lack of empowerment for the poor. “It is my hope that we will get together and be together and really stand up to gain power for poor people, all working together to solve the problem of poverty”, said Dr. King in a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, circa 1956. The Columbia Urban League, established in 1967, is a multi-service, non-profit agency that promotes financial stability and racial inclusion in the local community. The Columbia Urban League offers programs designed to provide economic empowerment and educational opportunities for those in need.

The Breakfast celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a civil rights icon, who changed the global approach to justice, humanity, and civility. “In addition, this event is a call to action to continue the legacy of Dr. King in promoting a beloved community that promotes inclusion, social and economic justice for all”, said Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr., president and CEO of the Columbia Urban League, Inc.

The Mission of the Urban League movement is to enable African- American and other under-served communities to secure self-reliance, primarily in education, employment, and economic development. The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans and others to enter the economic and societal mainstream. The Urban League Movement was founded in 1910.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Elàna R. Frazier, at 347-703-0083 or efrazier@culsc.org.

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