

Mayor Fischer names new director of Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods

Rashaad Abdur-Rahman replaces Anthony Smith

LOUISVILLE (December 23, 2015) – Mayor Greg Fischer announced today that Rashaad Abdur-Rahman will be the new director of the city’s Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.

Abdur-Rahman previously served as director of child welfare services for Family & Children’s Place, where he managed a total budget in excess of \$400,000 and supervised a staff of 18. He earned a master’s of science in social work from the University of Louisville and bachelor’s degree in psychology from Berea College.

Fischer noted that Abdur-Rahman is already very familiar with the office, serving as a volunteer on its One Love Louisville implementation team.

“Our search for a new director was thoughtful and thorough,” Mayor Fischer said. “The work of this office is critical to the future health and safety of our community. Rashaad is a proven leader, and his energy, dedication and compassion are evident to everyone who meets him.”

Abdur-Rahman replaces Anthony Smith, who had served as director since the office was created in 2013. In October, Smith was named CEO of Cities United, based in Washington, D.C.

The mission of the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods is to reduce the number of homicides, suicides and overdoses in Louisville, through the lens of public health.

Mayor Fischer created the office in 2013, on the recommendation of the Violence Prevention Work Group, which is made up of community leaders. Abdur-Rahman said he is excited about this new opportunity as director.

“I am honored to serve in this role and to help design and implement collaborative strategies with an array of stakeholders who share the ultimate vision of ensuring safe and vibrant neighborhoods for everyone in this great city,” he said. “The solutions to safe neighborhoods come from the people who live in those neighborhoods. I look forward gaining their insight to help with the overall health and safety of Louisville.”

Abdur-Rahman will work in partnership with Yvette Gentry, the city’s chief of Community Building; Quanique Carthan, Coordinator for the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods; and Louisville Metro Police Chief Steve Conrad.

Abdur-Rahman has previously worked at Seven Counties Services, Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children and Brooklawn Child and Family Services.

He also served as a board member for [Metro United Way's](#) Black Male Achievement Steering Committee, and [2not1](#): Fatherhood and Families.

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The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods was created to mold neighborhoods that support every citizen from prenatal – through – education – to – career. The office focuses energy and resources on youth (ages 0-11), juveniles (12-17) and young adults (ages 18-30), as well as on those most impacted by homicides, suicides and overdoses.