



Urban League of
Greater Cleveland
*Empowering Communities
Changing Lives.*

Contact: Betty J. Halliburton/ULGC Marketing Manager
bhalliburton@ulcleveland.org or 440-822-8949

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Urban League Welcomes Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Robert Samuels to the ULGC Equal Opportunity Day Luncheon this Wednesday at the Huntington Cleveland Convention Center

Cleveland, OH, December 6, 2023 – The Urban League of Greater Cleveland is excited to present Pulitzer Prize winner, Robert Samuels, author of ***His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice*** as the keynote speaker at the *Equal Opportunity Day Luncheon (EOD)* on Wednesday, December 6 (11:30 am) at the Huntington Cleveland Convention Center.

“The EOD Luncheon is a showcase and celebration of how we enact our mission through services, programs, partnerships, collaborations, and community leadership,” said ULGC President & CEO Marsha A. Mockabee. “Returning to our first in-person luncheon post-COVID feels especially celebratory, which will also include some special community updates and announcements.”

The Urban League will be joined by National Urban League President & CEO Marc Morial (via Zoom), Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, and members of Destination Cleveland to announce a major 2025 event that will have a substantial regional impact on the economy.

Mockabee said not only will the announcement be historical, but those at the luncheon will hear from a phenomenal author who will share very pertinent historical perspectives connected to George Floyd.

“We were hoping to depict a country in its fullness—in all its nuance, in its brilliance, in its tragedy,” said Samuels who authored the book with journalist Toluse Olorunnipa. “All of those things that were around George Floyd—the school system, the healthcare system, the education system, how wealth is passed down—had reverberating impacts on how Floyd viewed the world, and all of them contributed to why he was so afraid the moment the officer tapped on his window.”

"I think it's important to note that very little sustainable change has happened after the death of Mr. George Floyd," said ULGC Board Chair Kevin Clayton. "For a moment, this tragedy appeared to ignite the urgency to correct some of the wrongs that have plagued our nation for decades. Unfortunately, the murder of Mr. Floyd did not create the movement that we hoped for, and are now seeing the same lack of concern for the rights of Black Americans, and we must fervently continue to fight every day."

The Urban League is also pleased to announce its 2023 Steven A. Minter Legacy Award recipient, the world-renowned civil rights icon Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., founder and president of Rainbow PUSH Coalition, who will accept his award via live streaming.

The EOD Luncheon not only serves as a fundraiser that provides crucial funding to support our empowerment, community leadership, and critical education and youth development programs; but also promotes economic self-sufficiency and interdependency. Corporate, governmental, and foundation support undergird key operations, allowing the Urban League to achieve significant mission impact.

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