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Mecklenburg County



For Immediate Release

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Caucus Brings Town Hall Meeting to Charlotte; *50 Years since the "War on Poverty"*

Raleigh- The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is holding a series of Town Hall Meetings on Poverty and Economic Development. Charlotte members of the NCLBC along with faith-based leaders and community partners will host a meeting on Thursday, May 8 from 6-8:30pm at Urban League of Central Carolina, 740 W 5th St, Charlotte, NC. "2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the "War on Poverty". "The poverty gap continues to widen and we thought this would be a good time to refocus our attention on the thousands of North Carolinians who are the working poor," said Representative Garland Pierce, Chairman, NCLBC.

North Carolina has gone from having the 26th highest poverty rate in the nation a decade ago to having the 12th highest now. More than 1.7

million N.C. residents are poor – more people than the entire population of New Hampshire. And more than half a million of those poor are children – one out of every four children in the state.

The “War on Poverty” seems to be a war on the poor,” said Presiding Elder Pridgen, Western District of the Western North Carolina Conference of AME and NCLBC Community Partner.

In 2005, the poverty rate in Mecklenburg County was 2 percentage points below the national average and nearly 4 points below that for the state of North Carolina. By 2009, however, Mecklenburg County’s poverty rate had nearly caught up with the national average, and the distance between the county and the state had narrowed considerably. In 2010, the poverty rate in Mecklenburg County was dead even with the national rate.

“In 2014 in the most prosperous country known to the history of man that it is unacceptable for many Americans to live in economic despair and abject poverty, and hopelessness. This town hopefully will begin to identify and put into action and to begin to bring economic parity to our poor and disenfranchised,” said Rep. Rodney Moore, Chair of the Poverty and Economic Development Committee of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus.

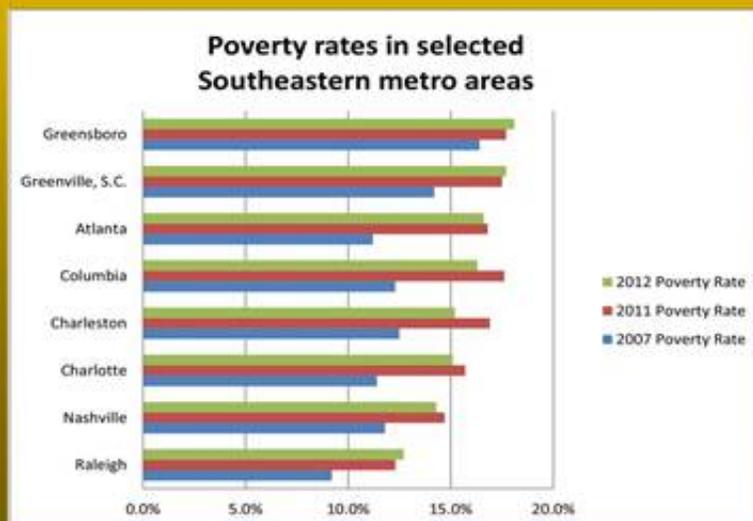
The Town Hall meetings will advance the message of the poverty gap and educate citizens on why it is getting wider and what we can do collectively to close that gap,” said Pierce.

The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is an association comprised of Senators and Representatives of African and Native American heritage. The primary purpose of the Caucus is to operate as a vehicle through which African Americans and people of color residing in

the State of North Carolina, will be able to exercise their political power in a unified manner; The Caucus ensures that the views and concerns of African Americans and people of color are carried out by their elected representatives; and work to develop the political consciousness of all people.

**North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
and Coalition Partners
Poverty Town Hall Meeting**

**Thursday, May 8
Urban League of Central Carolina
740 W 5th St, Charlotte, NC**



Why is the poverty gap widening?



Is this a war on poverty or a war on the poor?



What can we do to close the gap?

NCLBC

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