

Contact:
Benjamin Moody
BMC Communications Director
Benjamin.Moody@BrilliantMindsCollective.org



BRILLIANT MINDS COLLECTIVE

Brilliant Minds Collective Issues Statement on Jackson, Mississippi Water Crisis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2022

New York, NY - We, the members of Brilliant Minds Collective, Inc., issue this statement to express our sadness and disappointment with the tragic water shortage in Jackson, Mississippi.

It is hard to imagine that in 2022, residents in the world's greatest country would face such a seemingly avoidable crisis, leaving over 150,000 deprived of enough water to flush toilets, and much less safe to consume.

We have questions.

First, how was the water system allowed to deteriorate to a point that it would be rendered practically useless by recent rains?

Secondly, who was appointed or designated to oversee the responsibility of maintaining the water systems so that they can be held accountable for what appears to be an unacceptable failure?

Thirdly, what is the status of the investigation into this humanitarian disaster? We cannot allow the opportunity for a collapse in the distribution of water, an essential resource, to happen again. According to widely circulated reports, residents of the city have been boiling water for over a month due to well-known water-quality problems.

"Our collective hearts go out to the people suffering in Jackson, Mississippi. It is unimaginable that residents in a modern city in America would be deprived of one of the most basic and crucial necessities. Knowing Black Americans make up over 80% of Jackson's population and the state of Mississippi's history of systemic racism and violence, it isn't surprising that more wasn't done to circumvent this crisis. There is no doubt that the opportunity has once again presented itself to both parties to proactively review and monetarily address the infrastructure of Black Communities nationwide." **Tyesh Harris, Executive Director of Brilliant Minds Collective, Inc.**

We look forward to a response from the offices of **Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba** and/or **Governor Tate Reeve** addressing our concerns as we continue to offer our assistance in whatever way we can provide.

About Brilliant Minds Collective:

Brilliant Minds Collective is a Think Tank prioritizing the development of people of color by bringing together global thought leaders who develop solutions and take actions that foster change economically, culturally, politically, and environmentally.

We are a premier thought leadership network, a magnet for high-caliber educators and Influencers, and a transformative force in driving access to investment, financial sustainability, improved health and human resources, and life-changing opportunities for all people of color.

An Educated Mind is a Brilliant Mind.