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HOUSING AUTHORITY BRINGS STAR POWER TO THE STAGE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS EVENT

Former Love & Hip Hop cast members and the City of Birmingham bring support and resources to survivors of domestic violence.

BIRMINGHAM, AL October 22, 2026 – The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD) and City of Birmingham joined together to host "Lifting Voices, Breaking Silence," an annual event that addresses the issue of domestic violence. This year's event was held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and featured former Love & Hip Hop alumna, Yandy Smith, along with Dr. Jamila Davis and Taranesha Wallace who recorded a live episode of their podcast, "I Love Me More," before a crowd.

"To me, this is not an event, it's a movement," said Davis. It's the birth of a thing that gives survivors a safe space to talk about real issues and not be judged. This (movement) is really to help survivors break free," Davis added.

Yandy Smith said, "We have to give ourselves grace. We have to ask ourselves what is making us stay with this (abusive) person? We have to have honest conversations with ourselves and others to create a safe space."

Wallace said, "The message I want to convey is you are enough. The message is remembering to love yourself more. We love to do things for others but get uncomfortable when we have to do it for ourselves."

After the podcast taping, breakout sessions were hosted by One Place Family Justice Center, the Birmingham Police Department, Community Bank, and the YWCA on various topics surrounding domestic violence awareness and prevention.

HABD Chief Administrative Officer, Denita Bearden said, “We should never stop highlighting domestic violence awareness and promoting healthy relationships. Coupled with knowledge, resources and holding abusers accountable, we can create and maintain safer homes and communities. Today’s program is a testament to our commitment at Birmingham Housing to serve in a role to resolution and intentional education.”

Uche Bean, Director of the Office of Community Safety Initiatives for the City of Birmingham said, “Domestic violence is a public safety issue that impacts families and communities across Birmingham. As we continue implementing our Violence Reduction Strategic Plan, we are committed to strengthening prevention efforts, supporting survivors and holding abusers accountable. Events like Lifting Voices, Breaking Silence remind us that creating a safer Birmingham requires awareness, healing, collaboration and action.”

The event was designed to foster a supportive community where survivors can share their experiences and educate residents and attendees about the impact of domestic violence. Participants closed the day with music, food, and a meet and greet with Smith, Davis and Wallace.

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The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD) is Alabama’s largest provider of public housing, serving 23,000 residents. Its mission is to provide the highest standard of affordable housing while fostering vibrant, inclusive communities and serving as a catalyst for opportunity. To learn more about HABD, visit www.habd.org.

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