

Dear Greensboro Coliseum and Greensboro Community:

Following the Greensboro Coliseum's decision to host R.Kelly's "The Love Jam" concert at the venue on Friday, May 11th, in light of the ongoing public evidence that the artist has a long term history of sexual misconduct, we are requesting that the concert be cancelled. The Greensboro Coliseum choosing to host a repeat offender condones the continuous abuse and harm that he has done to African American women and girls, and encourages rape culture. The coliseum has neglected to consider the Black women and girls that largely makes up the community that relies on them for community engagement and entertainment

The coliseum needs to hold the artist accountable and know they are hosting a sexual predator that has committed acts consisting of statutory rape and the sexual conditioning of young African American girls. Hosting this event would provide R.Kelly with funds that in the past he has used as a way to dominate his victims and regulate his sex cults. As members of the community and patrons of the Greensboro Coliseum as well as people fighting to end violence against women and girls we are outraged that the venue has decided to promote and host the predator even with detailed documentation of the abuse and the controversy that follows his events.

Promotion for "The Love Jam" triggered concern as the Greensboro Coliseum has for many years been a venue for the community to bring our children for entertainment. For the Greensboro Coliseum to host and promote someone that has caused so much harm to young girls is truly disheartening and speaks volumes in regards to their concern for the safety and protection of our young girls.

There has been a shift in rape culture in regards to holding offenders in the entertainment industry accountable for the abuse and harassment they have flooded in our communities and canceling this event is an action to not only hold R.Kelly accountable but to stand in solidarity with those impacted by his actions.

We hope the Greensboro Coliseum will do the right thing by canceling the concert followed by establishing set justice-centered policies and procedures to help plan any future events. The signatories to this letter will proudly stand with the institution. However, if the Greensboro Coliseum decides to stand on the wrong side of this issue we will be standing outside the venue to protest his appearance. Members of the community have already agreed to stand alongside us and as we partner with both local and national anti-rape organizations as well as organizations committed to advocate for Black girl not to attend this concert. We advise you do the same.

Sincerely,

Brandi Collins-Calhoun | Director of Reproductive and Maternal Health

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