

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 26, 2021

Contact: Carlene Pavlos, Massachusetts Public Health Association  
857-302-7023; [cpavlos@mapublichealth.org](mailto:cpavlos@mapublichealth.org)

**Michael Curry Honored with Public Health Award**  
*Commitment to ending health inequities cited*

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) announced that it will present its highest honor, the Paul Revere Award for Lifetime Achievement, to Michael Curry, Esq. of Brockton. Mr. Curry, who serves as the CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, has been a leader for several decades in the effort to eliminate health inequities in Massachusetts. Leon W Russell, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors, will present the award to Mr. Curry at MPHA’s virtual Spring Awards Breakfast on June 4. See <https://mapublichealth.org/upcoming-events/> for details and registration information.

“Michael Curry’s lifelong commitment to social justice and health equity have made a tremendous difference in the lives of Massachusetts residents,” said MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos. “From his efforts to pass the Massachusetts Healthcare Reform law in 2006 to his work with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Michael has been unwavering in his pursuit of justice and a more equitable society.”

Michael Curry, Esq. is the CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, which represents 52 health centers, serving over 1 million patients at 314 practice sites across Massachusetts. Prior to joining the League, he served as Senior Policy Advisor for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, where he worked on the passage of the 2006 landmark Massachusetts Health Care Reform law, as well as initiatives aimed at ending health inequities.

Mr. Curry is also past president of the Boston Branch of the NAACP (2011-2016) and was elected nationally to the NAACP’s Board of Directors in 2014, 2017 and 2020. Under his leadership, the Boston NAACP took on many critical issues impacting communities of color, including racial profiling, health disparities, poverty, youth violence, workforce development and inequities in education. Mr. Curry launched the inaugural Boston NAACP’s “Summer Job – Pipeline to Leadership Program,” through which dozens of young people received annual summer stipends to work for the NAACP by attending community meetings, participating in leadership training, and registering thousands of new voters. He currently serves as Chair of the National NAACP’s Advocacy & Policy Committee and Vice-Chair of the Political Action & Legislation Committee.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award,” said Michael Curry. “Eradicating health inequities is an essential part of the larger effort to dismantle systemic racism in our country. I hope that my work, in concert with the efforts of so many other dedicated and committed individuals, is moving us towards that goal.”

Raised by a single mother in the Lenox Street Housing Projects and a product of the Boston Public Schools, Michael's life experiences have provided the motivation for his work in civil rights and health equity. He holds a Bachelor's of Arts from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from New England School of Law. He lives in Brockton with his family.

The virtual Spring Awards Breakfast will be held on June 4 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM on Zoom. Tickets for the event are available on a 'pay what you can' basis, and those interested in attending can register at <https://mapublichealth.org/upcoming-events/>.

The event will also honor Lawrence Director of Human Services Martha Velez, who will be receiving the Community Leadership Award, and local public health professionals and volunteers, who worked heroically throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to keep Massachusetts residents safe.

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition building. We are leaders in the movement to create health equity by addressing the root causes of health and wellness. We promote policies that impact the major drivers of health outcomes, such as access to healthy food, safe affordable housing, and transportation. We also advocate for equitable public health services throughout the Commonwealth. ###

Note to editors: photo is available upon request