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**Representative Michele Rayner-Goolsby Responds to
Governor DeSantis' Threats**

Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative Michele Rayner-Goolsby (D-St. Petersburg) released the following statement in response to **Governor DeSantis'** remarks today on intentionally diverting COVID-19 vaccines from Manatee County, where Black communities have remained largely unvaccinated:

“Governor DeSantis has made a choice to prioritize affluent neighborhoods in Manatee County over our underserved populations knowing the numbers are criminally low when it comes to equitable distribution of this vaccine,” said **Representative Rayner-Goolsby**. “Today, DeSantis doubled down on his decision and added that efforts would go to areas where his leadership isn’t being criticized. This is not the time to score political points while people are dying. It is time to take a sobering look at the numbers that have been released and act accordingly to bring aid to all Floridians”

Last month, **Representative Rayner** spearheaded a vaccine drive in collaboration with Manatee elected officials **Senator Jim Boyd, Representative Will Robinson, Representative Tommy Gregory,** and **Manatee County Commissioner Reggie Bellamy**. At the time, out of the 21,773 people who received the vaccine, only 432 were Black. The 500 slots available at the site were filled within minutes and open to any medical personnel or elderly residents 65 years or older.

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