



MEDIA ALERT

Dozens of Detroit Youth Leaders to Join Local Officials in Urging Metro Detroiters to Celebrate 2018 with Hugs, NOT Gunfire

Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiatives Project to launch annual Hugs, Not Bullets campaign, Dec. 5

WHAT: At **10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5** at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, youth leaders of Neighborhood Service Organization's (NSO) Youth Initiatives Project (YIP) will come together for the 14th annual "**Hugs, Not Bullets**" campaign kick-off to reduce celebratory gunfire and year-round gun violence in metro Detroit. In attendance will be YIP youth from Osborn High School, Henderson Academy, Cass Technical High School and Burns Elementary School, along with Detroit and Wayne County officials and members of the law enforcement community, including Detroit Police Department Chief James Craig. Dariane Vesey, a sophomore at Cass Tech, will serve as the event's guest speaker.

The NSO YIP Hugs, Not Bullets campaign focuses on student-led activities that involve community and classroom workshops on gun violence, celebratory gunfire, bullying and gang activity. YIP Youth Leaders work with schools to engage students on the importance of conflict resolution and productive ways to settle disputes. The campaign also involves the distribution of trigger locks and gun safety brochures throughout the community.

NSO YIP: A nationally recognized program, NSO YIP is designed to encourage youth activism toward preventing gun violence and substance abuse in our communities. YIP's training and technical assistance provide youth leaders with the skills to plan and organize activities to make their neighborhoods safer and propel other young people toward success. Many YIP-trained peer educators are emerging leaders in the community, making a positive impact on young lives. With the support of additional funding, the YIP program has expanded to serve youth in the HOPE Village community in northwest Detroit.

Last year, YIP youth-led awareness campaigns impacted and inspired more than 5,000 young people, and nearly 150 young people found summer employment through YIP referrals.

WHEN: **10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5**

WHERE: **Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, Michigan Rm., 1301 Third St., Detroit**

WHO:

- **Dariane Vesey, Sophomore, Cass Technical High School**
- **James Craig, Chief, Detroit Police Department**
- **James Tate, Council Member, Detroit City Council**
- **30-40 students from Osborn High School, Henderson Academy, Cass Technical High School and Burns Elementary**
- **Frank McGhee, Director, Neighborhood Service Organization Youth Initiatives Project**

MEDIA

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