

Take Charge of Your Life Juvenile Diversion Program, Inc.



July 18, 2008

For Immediate Release: Prince George's County Gang Prevention/Intervention Initiative

Forestville, Maryland (July 2008) The Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program, Inc., has been awarded a grant by the Prince George's County Department of Health, Office of Youth Strategies and Programs for the "STOP Gang Violence Initiative."

The Take Charge Program successfully completed a Basketball and Gang Prevention Camp at G. James Gholson Middle School the week of July 7-11. Approximately 85 at-risk youth attended the "Free" camp and heard presentations from Delegate Joanne Benson of the 24th Legislative District, Howard Burnette, Deputy County Administrator of Health and Human Services, Michael Butler, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Strategies and "Street basketball" icon, Pat Da Roc. Senator Barbara Mikulski's office presented the youth with *certificates of achievement* following the camp.

This comprehensive preventive initiative is designed to reduce gang recruitment, gang participation and to empower our youth with critical decision making skills and challenge the community at large to make Prince George's County safer.

We will be canvassing county neighborhoods and distributing gang prevention materials with staff and youth volunteers. We are also coordinating county-wide gang-prevention seminars at community centers and schools and accepting referrals for our Gang Prevention class sessions.

Please call Ernie Gaskins on 301-420-7395 for Intake Referral Forms or with any questions regarding the "Stop Gang Violence Initiative".

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