



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Dixon Launches Youth Violence Prevention Week

Baltimore, MD (March 23, 2009) – Mayor Sheila Dixon rallied with a diverse group of community leaders, religious leaders, and city agencies to kick off Youth Violence Prevention Week (YVP). YVP is a national campaign aimed at engaging the community in activities to reduce youth violence.

In addition to promoting various violence prevention strategies, National Youth Violence Prevention Week, held March 23-27, 2009, provides a unique opportunity for people of all ages and walks of life to join forces to address this crucial issue.

“We have worked to develop a comprehensive approach to reduce youth violence, but it is clear that government alone cannot solve the problem.” said Mayor Dixon. “Everyone has a role to play in making Baltimore safer, and Youth Violence Prevention Week is an opportunity to bring all the partners to the table.”

Mayor Dixon highlighted the Health Department’s Safe Streets program as a prime example of collaboration that works. Safe Streets is a public health campaign to reduce shootings and homicides within targeted communities in Baltimore City that have historically experienced high rates of violence. The program is a working partnership between city agencies, community organizations, outreach workers, clergy, and community leaders to reduce and prevent shootings and homicides. Safe Streets is currently being implemented in four communities in Baltimore City, including Cherry Hill.

The program was recently evaluated by Dr. Daniel Webster of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Dr. Webster found that McElderry Park, the first neighborhood to implement the initiative, has not had any homicides since the program began.

Today’s announcement marks the launch of a series of events taking place throughout the City this week to recognize YVP. To learn more about YVP activities planned this week visit www.baltimorecity.gov.

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