

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund

Working to Reduce Gun Violence Since 1993

October 22, 2010

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Community and School Leaders:

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is hosting a Youth Council, now in its second year, with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund for selected youth in order to provide a positive role for youth and young adults and to decrease gun violence in our community. We would like your help in recruiting and nominating youth to apply to participate in this program.

The Bronx Borough President's Youth Council project is a teen-run project designed to address gun violence among youth in our community and provide positive youth development. Building strong ties with youth will keep them connected to their community, and providing 'space' and 'time' that offers young people the opportunity to speak with their peers about important community issues fosters a sense of social competence and character development.

Using curriculum from a popular and successful after-school program run by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, staff will facilitate weekly sessions with the Youth Council members to help them develop leadership and advocacy skills, become more educated about gun violence prevention, experience career building workshops, and undertake a community development project based on their own assessment of the needs of their community.

The Youth Council will also serve as a vehicle for young people to meet regularly with local elected officials to address "gap areas" where unmet community needs lead to increased use of guns. Youth Council members will also be invited to participate in NYAGV's annual Lobby Day in Albany where youth will have the opportunity to meet with their elected representatives and advocate for sensible gun legislation and share their recommendations on ways to reduce gun violence.

Nominees for The Youth Council will be asked to fill out a brief application indicating why they are interested in the program in order to better facilitate the selection process. The Youth Council will meet every Wednesday from 4:00-5:30pm in the Office of the Bronx Borough President, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY. Pizza and beverages will be served each week prior to the start of each meeting. We hope to build on our successful inaugural Youth Council last year and that you will encourage youth from your programs and schools to apply to become a member of The Youth Council. The first meeting will be Wednesday, November 10.

Applications are due by Monday, November 8.

Sincerely,

Colin Weaver
Deputy Executive Director

Sincerely,

Shaina Harrison
Program Associate