
NEWS from...

CONEY ISLAND COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE

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Where One Act Is One Too Many

Coney Island Stakeholders Join Forces To Create Coney Island Coalition Against Violence

Coney Island -- Responding to an increasing number of violent incidents – especially those involving the use of guns – in Coney Island, a group of community activists and organizations have joined forces to create the Coney Island Coalition Against Violence.

The brainchild of Mathylde Frontus, the Coalition seeks to work with community residents, religious and community based organizations, elected officials, and law enforcement personnel to minimize the number of violent incidents in Coney Island. According to Frontus, "the focus of the Coalition will be to help coordinate anti-violence events throughout the community and to encourage everyone to work together rather than individually."

At the Coalition's first meeting, more than forty community residents and representatives from community based organizations -- including, Astella Development Corporation, Community Board 13, Coney Island Clear, Coney Island Development Corporation; Coney Island Generation Gap; Coney Island History Project, Coney Island Pride, Council for Unity, Kriya Associates; Liberation Diploma Plus High School, Naomi A.M.E. Zion Church, New Freedom Baptist Church, the New York City Anti-Violence Project, South Brooklyn Youth Consortium, Urban Neighborhood Services, Inc., and, You Gotta Believe! -- committed themselves to working together through the Coalition.

Coalition members also nominated and voted for the organization's initial Board of Directors. Elected to serve were Mathylde Frontus (Founder & Executive Director of Urban Neighborhood Services) and Scott Krivitsky (Educator, Teacher at Public School 188) as Co-Chairs; Brian L. Gotlieb (Community Activist and Chair of Community Board 13's Education, Library and Youth Services Committee) and Hope Campbell (New York City Anti-Violence Project) as Co-Vice Chairs; Charles Denson (Coney Island History Project) and Amanda Deutch (Coney Island History Project and Artistic Director, Parachute Festival) as Recording Secretaries; and, Marion Cleaver (Chairperson, Community Board 13) as Treasurer.

"It's all about connecting the pieces. The Coalition is designed to help connect the pieces in our community. Schools, businesses, parents, religious institutions, government officials, community based organizations, parents, police, gang members, and health and hospital facilities. We all need to be on the same page," newly elected Co-Chair Scott Krivitsky said.

“Our objective is to bring everyone together to address the root causes of all forms of aggression throughout Coney Island. One victim of violence is one too many,” Co-Vice Chair Hope Campbell said.

According to Co-Vice Chair Brian L. Gotlieb, "we want people to have a million reasons to celebrate and shed tears of joy rather than tears of sorrow due to their being the victim of violence. To be successful, we must do everything possible to eliminate guns from our community and provide children, especially teenagers, with a viable alternative to joining gangs or engaging in some other form of criminal activity."

The Coney Island Coalition Against Violence will hold its next Community Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Public School 329 located at 2929 West 30th Street between Mermaid and Neptune Avenues in Coney Island. Representatives from Congressman Nadler's office and local law enforcement are expected to attend and address Coalition members and community residents.

For more information, please call Mathylde Frontus at 347-374-2455 or Brian L. Gotlieb at 718-996-5668.

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