

February __, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The organizations that make up the Restoring the Village Coalition of Youth Activities (VCOYA) and the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee(LPAC) feel that collaborative efforts are now, more than ever, needed to address the violence in our community. Many leaders from these organizations and youth have experienced the violence personally through the tragic loss of family members and friends whose lives were cut short by gunfire. We must come together now, not as separate organizations working in our own silos, but as a united front against these tragedies.

The National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community is taking place in Miami, Florida on May 25-27, 2016. This conference is designed to foster collaboration, communication and action among practitioners and youth by sharing innovative ideas, best practices and research relating to criminal justice, causative factors and prevention strategies unique to the Black community. It will profile national initiatives and community strategies that have been successful in reducing violence and other inappropriate behavior. Special attention is directed toward positive approaches to the problems associated with juvenile crime. Resources for training, development and enhancement of crime prevention initiatives are included.

In the past, this conference has been attended separately by different organizations, which has made it difficult for organizations to come back and implement some of the tools they received at the conference. This year, VCOYA and LPAC are planning to join forces to take approximately 50 teenagers to this conference to represent our community as one. By attending the conference together, the teenagers and adult chaperones can jointly come up with plans and pool resources to utilize in our community to make it a safer place for all.

We are asking the city and county municipalities, organizations, community leaders, individuals in the community for funding to take our youth to this conference. Attached is an outline of the purpose of conference, why we need to attend, students and organizations who will attend and requirements, ideas for collective activities or events to do upon our return and expected outcomes and results from attending the conference. Ultimately, our goal is to incorporate this trip as part of an overarching community-wide youth leadership development initiative.

Please review the attached document and consider supporting our efforts. All checks should be made to the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, which will serve as the fiscal agent on this initiative. Please put Preventing Crime in the Black Community in the memo line. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You in advance,

Denise Sirmons, LPAC Chairperson
Roundtable Kids at Hope Community Coordinator

Kevin Howard, VCOYA Chairperson
Healthy Start Teen Choices Coordinator