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Healthy Cleveland Looks at Youth Violence as a Public Health Concern

Forum engages public and private sector partners to discuss economic impacts and solutions

CLEVELAND – The City of Cleveland, Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland (BGCC) along with partners from the healthcare and law enforcement community, such as University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, MetroHealth System, the US Attorney’s Office Northern District and the Ohio Attorney General’s Office have organized the first of a series of forums entitled **The Healthy Cleveland Initiative: The Public Health and Economic Impact of Violence on Our Community, which will be held on November 18, 2011 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland at 6114 Broadway.**

This inaugural program will explore how stakeholders in the public and private sectors have a responsibility to work together to reduce and prevent violence. These experts will discuss the public health threats and negative economic impact violence has on Cleveland, particularly during this time of city-wide revitalization efforts.

“The City of Cleveland views youth violence as a public health issue and has been working to address the impact of violence on our community through prevention and intervention,” said Mayor Jackson. “This forum will continue that work and strengthen the public-private partnerships that we need to put real solutions in place.”

“Youth violence is a serious health threat to our city,” said Jeffrey Johnson, Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 8. “Together, we will flush out the issues we face in our neighborhoods and begin to outline a plan for all sectors of the city to take notice and get involved with our youth. Public and private entities in Cleveland must work together to reverse this deadly trend that impacts the overall health and wellness of our community. ”

“The Boys & Girls Clubs is excited to be involved with the City of Cleveland on the Healthy Cleveland Initiative,” said Ron Soeder, President of BGCC. We really believe that by collaborating and working together under the banner of the Healthy Cleveland Initiative that we can make a meaningful impact by providing prevention services, mentoring and positive activities for the kids in our community.”

The Keynote Speaker will be Marilyn Rice from the World Health Organization. Panelists and roundtable participants include:

- Steve Dettelbach, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio
- Melinda Sykes, Director of Children’s Initiatives, Ohio Attorney General’s Office
- John Hairston, District Director for Congresswoman Marcia Fudge
- Dr. Edward Barksdale, Surgeon in Chief, Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital
- Dr. Jeffrey Claridge, Director of Trauma, Critical Care and Burns, MetroHealth System
- Michael McGrath, Chief of Police, City of Cleveland
- Calvin Williams, Deputy Chief of Police, City of Cleveland
- Egger, CEO and Publisher, Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Debra Adams Simmons, Editor in Chief, Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Tom Beres, Political Correspondent, WKYC Channel 3

Moderators for the event include: Terry Egger, CEO and Publisher, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Debra Adams Simmons, Editor in Chief, Cleveland Plain Dealer and Tom Beres, Political Correspondent, WKYC Channel 3

For more information, please visit www.clevelandkids.org.

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