

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



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Message from Mr. Miles

Greetings to all of you and I hope you are striving for perfection. Congratulations again to Dan D'Orazio and his wife on their soon to be arriving addition. The meeting in September was great. Our guests included Dr. Arthur Hill from Kennedy Krieger, Mr. Reginald Exum from CitiGroup, Councilman Ken Oliver who represents the Liberty Road corridor in Baltimore County (also is the first African American elected to the Baltimore County Council), Professor Byron Warnken from the University of Baltimore Law School and Dr. Jackson who teaches in the Howard County Public School System. Also, thank you to JL Funn Enterprises for providing us with such a great lunch.

Each of our guests talked about their life experiences, the importance of education, and what they are currently doing. During my discussion with the group, we talked about Kanye West and his behavior at the awards ceremony and also the actions of Venus Williams at her championship match and how she let anger cost her a great deal of money. Never do or say anything out of anger.

There was also an interesting conversation about the City police detective who was allegedly shot by two youth during an attempted robbery. The main point here to remember is that none of us ever have the right to take something or try to take something by force or otherwise that does not belong

to us. We hope that the officer will be OK. If the young men who have been charged and arrested are found guilty, their lives are ruined.

All of the Kings in this program know right from wrong and if you are not sure about right vs. wrong, come and ask Mr. Miles. Things can never go right when you are carrying a gun illegally. None of you should be carrying guns anyway. If you are really interested in weapons, come talk to me and when you finish high school and get parental consent, we can see about a career in the military. Again, it is my hope that the officer and any other victims who have been shot will make full recoveries.

School has started and I hope you are doing well. Now is the training ground. If you learn as much as you can while you are young and in school, the better off you will be. I keep telling all of you that you are competing against each other and all the other races and ethnicities. Those who make the best grades usually find the best opportunities. It is easy to be ordinary but I want for all of you to be extraordinary.

Each and every one of you can do better in all your classes, with your level of respect for your elders (including parents and teachers). Never say what you cannot do. All of you can do whatever you put your mind to and no matter how hard it gets, never give up! When you need help, ask for it. Expectations drive behavior and we expect all of you to

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

*"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."
- Steve Jobs*

do well. I watch all of you during the push-up contest and many of you try real hard to win and get that \$10. I want all of you to try as hard with school, not getting angry, staying out of trouble, choosing the right friends, listening to your parents/guardians, closing your mouth when you feel like talking back, and modeling positive behavior at all times.

Events

On October 24th we are going to Maryland Shock Trauma and we will meet at the hospital which is located at 22 S. Greene Street. I need you to be there by 8:30 a.m. I will have passes for the first 10 cars that arrive. For all others, we are asking you to drop off your king and come back to pick them up by 12:45 p.m. We will then go back to Coppin to have lunch and everyone will be dismissed by 2 p.m. Parents/Guardians, I need you to get your Kings there on time. They are going to learn a great deal at Shock Trauma and we are blessed that we have this opportunity. The Kings will also learn about careers offered at the hospital.

In November, we will have our Annual Thanksgiving dinner after the regular meeting. I am asking that each family bring a different dish. You can coordinate this with Ms. Powell. Brother Kip and the Masons will fry the turkeys. We will need everything else to complete our meal. Please no pork. Let's make this a huge success!

FYI

The mailing is the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted from 6-8 p.m. Anyone that is interested can meet at our meeting place in the Tawes Bldg. (2nd Flr). If any parent/guardian needs to meet with Mr. Miles with their young man, call him directly at (410) 852-8013 to set up an appointment.

Dues – Pay your dues if you have not. It helps us do what we want to do when everyone pays their dues. If you cannot pay it all at once, pay a little at a time but pay something. If there is anyone in the program who has a concern or a problem, please call me and let's talk about it. I do not want anyone walking around with problems or something that is bugging them and they just keep it inside. Never hold things in, let them go so that you can move on with your life. If you do not want to talk to me, talk to someone. You must get things off your chest. Never do or say anything out of Anger. Please remember that.

In conclusion, this is a great program. Things are being put in place to bless and empower. If you are not here, you cannot be blessed or empowered. We want every King to come out each month, no excuses. If we are taking a trip and you want to go but do not have the money, let me know and I will get a donation so that you can go. We all must do a better job at communicating. If you are not sure about something, ask someone. Call me or Ms. Powell. Call somebody! Learn to speak up for yourself. See you in October at Maryland Shock Trauma!

If you are receiving this newsletter and **you wish to be removed from the mailing list** or there have been any changes to your address or telephone number, please contact Ms. Powell at (410) 485-7656.

Thank you to all the Kings who continue to come. There would be no program without you. Thank you to the parents, guardians, caseworkers, and group homes who believe in this work. I and my staff could not do this work without your support.

"Every day holds the possibility of a miracle."