



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Peace Tour/Block Party

Presented By: **Councilman Michael Johnson and B.E.A. Inc.**

Date: **Saturday, May 23, 2009**

Location: **Vistas 13th Place and Roeser Rd**

Time: **3pm to 7pm.**

In a time of increasing violence, financial distress and economic frustration... it is important to stress and advocate the idea and promotion of peace. Come support this community's **cry to STOP THE VIOLENCE** in their neighborhood. There will be local community guest speakers, food, music and fun for all. So please spread the word to keep **the peace in the streets** and awareness in our communities. This will start a series of Peace Tours leading up to the **9th Annual "Stop the Violence" Peace Fest** on October 4, 2009. We can help to stop the violence in our community by taking a stand in our neighborhoods, awareness and spreading the word of **PEACE!** Word of mouth is more powerful and more effective than any advertisement.

Statistics: In 2004, 5,292 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered -- an average of 15 each day. Persons under the age of 25 accounted for nearly 50% of those arrested for murder and 62% of those arrested for robbery in 2005. The number of youths involved with gangs has not declined and remains near the peak levels. The average age of a gang member is 14-21 years of age. However, gang members can be as young as 8 years old to the mid 30's. 85-95% of all domestic violence victims are female. 1,232 women are killed each year by an intimate partner. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women. Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. In 2008, there were 2069 violent crimes reported in the South Phoenix area.

References: www.hawaii.edu, www.charactercounts.org/resources/youthviolence
www.aidv-usa.com/Statistics, www.abanet.org/domviol/statistics, www.americanhumane.org,
<http://www.cityofphoenix.org/APPINTRO/crimesta.html>