

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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‘Urgency of Now’ offers forum and resources for disrupting the culture of violence

Jan. 9, 2017 - The City of Hampton and Cities United will sponsor a two-day event next month at the Hampton Roads Convention Center that’s designed to address the problem of youth violence and improve black male achievement.

The first day of “Urgency of Now, Disrupting the Culture of Violence” takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Doors open at 5 p.m. From 5:30-8:30 p.m. representatives of the local faith community, regional officials and others will lead a public discussion about change and hope for the area’s young people, especially when it comes to youth violence and black male achievement. The title is “We Are All In This Together.”

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. a resource fair will be held with two key purposes:

- To raise awareness about various programs, resources and other help available for young people in the community.
- To recruit committed volunteers who want to support young people.

“This is an opportunity to get an update on the work that is being done in partnership with citizens and the faith community,” said Synethia White, the city’s youth violence prevention manager. “We must continue to work together to address violence in our communities.”

On Thursday, Feb. 16, various officials and guests will attend an invitation-only meeting where they will engage in peer-to-peer learning, discuss working together to prevent youth violence, and consider how that violence is disproportionately affecting black males in Hampton Roads.

The two-day “Urgency of Now” meeting is sponsored by the City of Hampton and Cities United, a national movement devoted to eliminating violence in American cities related to black men and boys.

A similar program last year called “The Urgency of Now: Changing the Narrative for Black Males from Failure to Hope,” attracted representatives from every city in Hampton Roads, as well as hundreds of people who attended the public forum and resource fair.

For more information, please visit www.hampton.gov/youthviolence. If you run a youth program and want to exhibit materials or to recruit volunteers on Feb. 15, please

complete the [online registration form](#). There is no fee, but spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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