

***** MEDIA ALERT *****

**NATIONAL YOUTH ANTI VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN TEAMS UP WITH
BELOVED PHILADELPHIA NONPROFIT FOR "DO THE WRITE THING"
CHALLENGE**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (March 21, 2019) – **Do the Write Thing**, a nationwide writing challenge for **middle school students** affected by violence, announces a partnership with **Peace + Love**, a Philadelphia nonprofit and local trailblazer in the positive promotion of peace, love and non-violence. This partnership unites the two organizations with a mutual purpose to combat violence by empowering young people to use their collective voice.

"We are so excited to have Peace + Love on board," says the Honorable Lori A. Dumas, Chair of Do the Write Thing Philadelphia. "We have to work as a team to create dialogue with our youth and bring about change!"

The Do the Write Thing Challenge gives middle school students the remarkable opportunity to examine the impact of **youth violence** on their lives. All across America, through classroom discussions and writings, students are able to communicate what they think should be done to reduce youth violence. In addition, students make personal commitments to do something about the problem that has plagued communities for generations. By emphasizing **personal responsibility**, the Do the Write Thing program strives to educate adults about the causes of youth violence.

As part of Do the Write Thing's efforts to end youth violence, the program also encourages the formation of groups called **Community Peace Partnerships** that work with local government, business and community leaders to provide opportunities such as job training internships, mentoring and academic scholarships for students who have participated in the program. Enter **Peace + Love**. The co-founder of Philadelphia's cherished nonprofit, **Herman Davis**, has already pledged to take on an integral role in what happens next, post-challenge. "I'm committed to changing the conversation and creating a continued vehicle for youth to not only express their feelings about violence, but to also heal and create resolutions for the issue of violence in the community," says Davis.

During a **press conference** at **Philadelphia City Hall** in **February**, local officials announced the challenge's long-awaited return to City of Brotherly Love. Since then, participating schools have enthusiastically begun the writing process, working to submit entries before the **March 31st deadline**. On **May 3rd**, student finalists will be honored at an awards ceremony at the School

District of Philadelphia. Two students will then be invited by the **National Campaign to Stop Violence** to attend a **Recognition Week** in **Washington, DC** in **July 2019**.

Do the Write Thing believes that, “[w]hen students accept the Challenge, they become messengers for their own thoughts and ideas, which are ultimately more powerful than violence”. Dumas and Davis are proud to announce this partnership.

Participating Schools Include:

E. Washington Rhodes Elementary School
Charles W. Henry School
James Rhoads Elementary School
Eliza B. Kirkbride School
AMY Northwest (Academy for the Middle Years)
Community Academy of Philadelphia CS
Franklin S. Edmonds School
Thurgood Marshall School
James R. Ludlow School
Keystone Academy Charter School
Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School
Esperanza Academy Charter School
Laura Wheeler Waring School
Mayfair Elementary School
Andrew J Morrison Elementary School
Edward Gideon School
William D. Kelley School
Tilden Middle School
Vare-Washington School
C.C.A Baldi Middle School
Philadelphia Virtual Academy
General Louis Wagner Middle School
George W. Sharswood Elementary School
George W. Childs Elementary School
Mastery Charter School: Smedley Elementary
MaST Community Charter School
Mastery Charter School: Hardy Williams Elementary
Julia Ward Howe Academics Plus School

ABOUT DO THE WRITE THING PHILADELPHIA:

Philadelphia’s Do the Write Thing Challenge is being chaired by the Honorable Lori A. Dumas, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia City Council. Now entering its 23rd year nationwide, the Do the Write Thing Challenge was

created to help individual students make a lasting commitment by taking responsibility for ending violence in their lives, homes and communities. Recent research conducted by the University at El Paso on the Do the Write Thing Challenge found that the program has had a positive impact on the relationship between students, parents, and teachers. Participating students exhibited a “greater empathy and understanding for the victims of violence.” For more information about Do the Write Thing Philadelphia, please visit www.wtphilly.org. Instagram: @dtwtphilly. Twitter: @dtwtphilly. Facebook: Do the Write Thing Philadelphia.

ABOUT PEACE + LOVE:

Peace + Love was founded in 2005 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by sister and brother, Rochelle Satchell and Herman Davis. The siblings lost their sister to domestic violence and in an effort to stop the violence, they created the Peace and Love Movement. The movement serves as a social cause marketing platform that has a special commitment to world peace and nonviolence. Satchell and Davis hope to raise awareness about violence and to educate youth on how to make better decisions when faced with potentially violent individuals. Their mission is to save lives, one challenge at a time. For more information about Peace + Love, please visit www.weneedpeaceandlove.com. Instagram: @iampeacenlove.

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