

**Youth Safety Council (YSC) 2009 Summer Research Report  
The Mikva Challenge**

# **Blueprint for Peace**

**2012 Chicago Peace Campaign: Everyone can be  
a Peace Worker**



**09**

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## *Executive Summary*

The Mikva Challenge Youth Safety Council (YSC) provides youth expertise and youth-centered research to the Department of Family and Support Services of the city of Chicago. The Council consists of thirteen youth researchers and advocates who are committed to supporting the city of Chicago in its efforts to decrease youth violence.

This summer, the Youth Safety Council conducted research on the best peace practices and strategies currently implemented by different organizations and individuals across Chicago.

**Our goal** was to create a blueprint for the city of Chicago to train anyone who works with youth on how to become a good peace worker. We believe that many youth workers, teachers, parole officers, counselors and community leaders are already involved directly or indirectly in violence prevention work, and the city needs to have a more intentional and strategic in its approach to training these people in how to create peaceful environments and develop peaceful youth.

The YSC's research included visits to a number of community organizations that work to reduce violence, expert presentations by speakers from the University of Chicago Crime Lab, CeaseFire, and BUILD, a youth violence survey of 758 Chicago high school students, and pertinent articles brought in to the youth research process by Mikva facilitators. The YSC also examined helpful theories such as Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and "Kingian" non-violence philosophy.

The Youth Safety Council analysis produced recommendations for youth workers who serve middle school students, regular high school students, at-risk youth populations, heavily gang involved youth. In addition, the YSC looked at recommendations in the three areas: prevention of violence, interventions to existing violence, and re-integration of violent offenders. In addition, the YSC also explored what "tools, qualities, and skills" a good peace worker in Chicago needs, and this report provides specific guidance for managers who need to hire and train youth workers in this area.

Two of the most striking of the recommendations from the Youth Safety Council are that not enough anti-violence work is being done for middle and elementary school students and that the city needs to develop a comprehensive set of “peace” trainings for youth workers in Chicago. The YSC’s main piece of evidence for more peace work in the lower grades comes from the student survey on youth violence. In that survey, three fourths of respondents said that anti-violence efforts must start before high school. The YSC’s recommendation on peace training was inspired by the work of students and staff at North Lawndale College Prep, one of the few high schools in the city that does not have metal detectors. Youth leaders and key staff have embarked upon serious and sustained training efforts centered around Kingian non violence principals and strategies. The YSC was impressed with this effort and believed this process should go city-wide as soon as possible.

In sum, this student created report highlights the reality that “peace work” is everyone’s business in Chicago. Youth leaders, teachers, elected officials, counselors, youth workers, business people, and parents all need to come together around thoughtful strategies for creating peaceful individuals and communities. This effort will not happen by chance. It will require a bold and comprehensive plan pushed by city and community leaders.

Brian Brady, executive director

Jaime Arteaga, youth safety council director

### *The Youth Safety Council Process:*

As youth safety researchers, we set out to communicate, collaborate and learn from community-based (youth) organizations, individuals and schools in search of different peace practices, methods and strategies currently being successfully implemented to alleviate violence and heal the youth of Chicago. The organizations and people from whom we learned a great deal are:

- **Alternatives, Inc.** a youth advocacy agency that focuses on providing a means of self-awareness and self-empowerment for youth through their programming. Their programs consist of Leadership Development, Academic Enrichment, Counseling, Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention, and Restorative Justice Practices.
- **BUILD, Inc.** a gang-prevention and intervention agency, whose focus is to engage at-risk youth in the schools and on the streets in positive alternatives in their lifestyles through sports, focus groups, and educational and career development. BUILD ensures their youth's realization of their full potential in order to contribute positively to the stability, safety, and well-being of our communities.
- **Ceasefire's** main goal as an agency is to stop the transmission of violence as a physician would stop the transmission of disease. Violence interrupters are sent out into communities to effectively block the transmission of violence between individuals through relationships built with community residents, non-positive social networks, and conflict resolution strategies.
- **Elev8** works intensively with middle school students to ensure graduation from 8th grade and a smooth transition into high school with the support required to succeed in school and beyond. They encourage parental and community

involvement, advocacy, and social supports to be a part of the positive development of these youth.

- **Kenwood Academy** high school has gender-based student groups that train male and female students to become leaders for themselves, their families, their communities, and school. These focused groups consist of activities that will foster academic excellence, emotional maturity, communal responsibility, and career exploration.
- **North Lawndale College Prep** high school's mission is to prepare young people from under-resourced communities for graduation from high school with the academic skills and personal resilience necessary for successful completion of college. They challenge social norms by creating a culture of peace within the school, limiting the number of security guards present, using peace clocks to document days gone without fights in the school, and encouraging student voice and non-violence practices in the school.
- **The Peace School's** philosophy is to create **peace within** before an individual can be peaceful in the world. Their yoga and meditation strategies focus on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual order and harmony in order to spread peace throughout our everyday environments.
- **Umoja** a student development agency that partners with teachers, school leadership and additional partners to cultivate faith in the capacity of all students to grow, learn, and assume responsibility for themselves. Umoja focuses on relationship and support building, adult and youth partnerships to keep students in school and help them move toward a positive future.

- **The University of Chicago Crime Lab** seeks to improve the understanding of how to reduce crime and violence by helping government agencies and non-profit organizations rigorously evaluate new pilot programs
- **Guillermo Gutierrez** a Youth Development Specialist at BUILD, Inc, has nearly 10 of experience in gang prevention and intervention work and pulls from his own life experience as a former gang member to guide his work. He has been trained in spiritual well-being practices and peace-making strategies, and his passion for healing the wrong done in communities' drives his work to fully empower youth to give back and be a part of the solution.
- In addition, during the past six months, the Youth Safety Council has traveled to San Francisco to receive training from **the Youth Leadership Institute** and to Boston to receive training from **Youth on Board**. Both organizations and their leaders are national experts in the field of youth policymaking, and the staff of both agencies have helped inform and guide the work of the Mikva Youth Safety Council.

The YSC used a variety of intellectual, reflection and research tools to create this report and the findings contained therein.

### *Site-Visits*

The YSC conducted numerous site-visits to various community-based (youth) organizations to see programs/program facilitators in action and gain first-hand experience of their strategies and the tools they use to help youth become peaceful.

### ***Guest Lecturers***

The YSC invited several experts from different fields/occupations related to safety and peace to come and speak to the group about their work. We also viewed on-line lectures and related video materials.

### ***Gallery Walks***

The YSC used gallery walks as a reflection tool after lectures, site-visits, articles and discussions to capture what students had learned and thought about the area/topic addressed.

### ***Social-Ecological Model***

This model takes into consideration the complex interplay between the individual, his or her relationships, his or her community, and societal factors and their cumulative effect on attitudes, behaviors and beliefs.

### ***Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs***

Psychologist Abraham Maslow first introduced his concept of a hierarchy of needs in his 1943. The theory (the hierarchy) suggests that people are motivated to fulfill basic needs before moving on to other needs. We think Maslow's Hierarchy is a critical tool for understanding youth violence in Chicago.

### ***Kingian Non-Violence Concepts***

These concepts were those used and promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and incorporated into the civil rights movement. There are 6 core principles, 3 levels of conflict and 4 different types of conflict identified within this framework.

### ***Research Training Trip***

The YSC had the privilege to travel to the University of Iowa to participate in a week long research training seminar conducted by the department of Political Science professors and graduate students. Students learned how to conduct a phone survey,

analyze data, create a presentation, and deliver the research presentation to city leaders (quality of government service poll for Washington, Iowa).

### *Mikva Challenge Teen Violence Survey Results*

The Mikva Challenge conducted a survey of 758 Chicago high school students, and students were able to analyze, interpret, use and learn from the data collected. The results of this work were presented to Chicago media and received attention in the Sun Times and on WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio.

### *Overall Description of the Problem:*

Through our experience with these organizations, we learned that behind every action there is an intention or thought. An act of violence starts as a thought then it becomes either verbal or physical action. Those differing levels of conflict (which is a normal part of everyday life) and other stresses lead youth to act out violently because they know no other way to deal with their situations. Therefore, **youth grow up learning that violence is the only way to deal with conflict, stress and negative thoughts, and it becomes a (negative) social norm for them.**

People accept violence as a part of their daily lives, thereby becoming part of the vicious cycle of violence. Violent behavior begins with one individual, and like Dr. Gary Slutkin of CeaseFire says, it is transmitted to another person, and then to another like a virus, with accepted and practiced violent social norms, which facilitate the transmission of violence.

We should also look at ALL violence as damaging and equally vicious. There are different types of violence—including verbal, emotional, and physical violence. One type of violence can lead to the escalation of another type. Since most people can be violent in some way, we need to address our social norms and the way we deal with conflict.

While gangs receive the most attention when people talk about violence, we find there is a general acceptance of violence among even non gang involved youth. Young people

don't want to be seen as weak or vulnerable may act violently as a misguided way of getting respect and attention. In addition, young people hurting emotionally and financially may act out violently as a way of drawing attention to themselves and releasing stress and emotion. Too many of our young people carry around a lot of pain and they have few opportunities for healing and positive self expression in their daily lives.

***Mikva Challenge Teen Violence Survey Results:***

The Mikva Challenge conducted a survey to highlight youths' perspective on the violence they face daily and to share possible solutions with adult partners. Most adults are not familiar with the violent experiences faced by Chicago youth today. Therefore, adults should incorporate the youth perspective on violence into their decision-making in order to construct more effective violence prevention strategies.

From Mikva Challenge's four civic leadership programs, 758 respondents took the youth violence survey, 90% of whom attend neighborhood schools, representing a total of 84 schools across Chicago. Their answers point out key things that the city of Chicago should focus on in order to make Chicago a safer place for youth to live.

- According to the survey, the following are the top five responses from youth for those factors that are highly encouraging violence: peer pressure (57.5%), drugs (64.8%), gangs (80.7%), access to guns (64.6%), and the breakdown of family structure/broken homes (54.7%). Respondents were able to check all that they felt applied.
- There is so much violence in the communities that people and specifically youth become numb or even used to it (it begins to feel normal).
- In an article recently published in the Chicago Sun-Times, the author argued that President Obama should put National Guard troops in high violence neighborhoods. When survey respondents were asked if they would like to see National Guard troops patrolling their neighborhood, 64% of the respondents said they would consider having it to reduce the violence. Their response serves as a cry for help and demonstrates how violence in Chicago is so out of control.

- Surprisingly, when asked who is to blame for youth violence, respondents scored schools (25.6%) and politicians (12.9%) low.
- While the general public regards schools as unsafe because of what they see in evening newscasts, “another CPS student killed”, youth actually feel relatively safe at schools. Some youth might even say that those 6 hours in school are the safest of their day. Schools were also listed as potential solutions to the issue of violence.
- While survey respondents didn’t see the Chicago Police department as a part of the root cause of the problem, students did not see them as part of the potential solution either. Students seem disconnected from both the police and the elected officials on this issue. Another interesting finding is the top three root causes of violence, which are as follows: 1) breakdown of family structure/broken home (47.1%), 2) gangs (45.0%), and 3) access to guns (42.2%). We believe that broken-down homes are the top contributor to youth violence because a traumatic experience and the breakdown of your social support, can lead to other serious issues such as: low self-esteem, lack of positive role models, and, ultimately, leads youth to look for social support elsewhere, like gangs. Gangs in turn cause youth to feel that they must act a certain way and do certain things to continue to be accepted and acknowledged. That is why the top cause of youth violence according to the survey was peer pressure (87.1%).
- What we found truly stunning was the fact respondents feel young people become engaged in violence during middle school (60.3%) and not so much in high school (22.2%). During middle school, children are developing their personalities, values and making life changing decisions. During this stage they may tend to have low self-esteem and have a need to fit in with their peers. It is through their desire to fit in that they are easily influenced by others, making them the most vulnerable and potentially the hardest impacted victims of youth violence.

### **Key Recommendation Based of Survey Findings:**

With this data in hand and general agreement of most of the people we spoke with, we believe strongly that anti-violence interventions can’t wait until high school.

Policymakers should target youth in grade levels 3-8 to keep them from being violent when they reach high school. Teaching youth to understand and be critical of negative media images as well as implementing peer mentoring and positive peer pressure programs would be a crucial step towards keeping them from resorting to violence in high school.

***Frameworks for Thinking about Chicago Peace Work:***

Our Peace Strategy Chart is broken into three categories that correspond directly to the three basic levels of conflict (Normal, Pervasive & Overt). These categories are *Prevention Strategies, Intervention & Management Strategies, and Healing & Reintegration Strategies*. We also developed four target populations for whom these strategies are intended and would best support the development of a set of Peace skills.

The four target populations and their profiles as follows:

1. Middle School Students
  - Students in grades 3-8
2. (Average) High School Students
  - Attend classes regularly
  - C+ or better
  - Do enough to get by but are not over-achievers
  - If they do not know the at-risk or heavily gang involved youth, they are often most impacted by their behavior
3. At-Risk Youth
  - Are surrounded by violence (physical, mental and emotional) at home, community and school
  - Most likely in a clique
  - Might have considered joining a gang while in high school
  - Attend school and class more often than not, but also miss several days
4. Heavily Gang Involved Youth

- Don't take school seriously
- Might have been kicked out of school or dropped out
- Come to school sometimes but do not attend class regularly and often roaming halls
- They start, instigate or cause most of the violence (physical, mental and emotional) in school or around school areas.
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### **Prevention Strategies**

These strategies work best, when helping youth develop skills, tools & qualities that they can use to become more Peaceful and deal with conflict, stress and issues when they need to.

### **Middle School Students**→

- ❖ The city should teach yoga and meditation principles in physical education classes so that every student will have access to methods on how to calm themselves and not resort to violent measures to release their stress.
- ❖ The city should provide a media education training program where they can teach middle school students on how influential the media could be on them and society, explaining how the negative representations of certain communities and youth create negative social norms. The ABC's of media literacy would be a good tool to introduce youth to this concept.
- ❖ The city should provide the cultural exchange programs (by neighborhood) to grade levels sixth through eighth so students will gain a greater understanding of what others hold as personal values and beliefs while building a reasonable appreciation for each culture.
- ❖ The city should incorporate peace circles (spaces where youth can discuss feelings, pressures and issues) in middle schools so students can fully understand and learn how to share and talk about their feelings in a peaceful manner while gaining skills that they can apply in everyday life.

**High School Students**→

- ❖ The city should provide conflict mediation classes so that students can learn how to identify and effectively de-escalate a confrontation or situation before it turns into a fight or even worse.
- ❖ The city should give healthy and positive relationship programs to prevent high school youth from becoming involved a violent/negative relationship where there is verbal, mental or physical violence.
- ❖ The city should provide a teacher-student portal where the students can have an open discussion with the teachers about issues that happen within the school and classroom without fear of getting in trouble

**At-Risk Youth**→

- ❖ The city should support the creation of brotherhood and sisterhood programs to provide students with a positive atmosphere where they can build new relationships, work on improving their community, and share personal experiences to reduce the amount of stress within themselves in a gender safe environment.
- ❖ The city should provide mandatory bi-monthly college visits for all high school grade levels so that students can consider and experience college life: while experiencing something other than being in their community all the time.
- ❖ The city should implement places in public schools where LGTBQ youth can be in a safe environment. There they will be able to express their feelings freely and be able to relate to each other and find possible solutions to the issues they face.

**Intervention & Management Strategies****Middle School Student**→

- ❖ One strategy that is vital when trying to intervene in a violent situation is teaching yoga and deep breathing exercises with meditation to calm the person down and have them relax. This strategy will help the youth control themselves when they

are put in tough situations. They will know how to control their anger and react in a positive matter.

- ❖ A program that will definitely help youth would be the program Build Inc. One of the strategies that this program uses to bring youth together is sports. Team sports created a sense of community by playing with their peers.

### **High School Student→**

- ❖ One program that peace workers can include in each school is big brother/big sister. This is a program that is implemented in Kenwood Academy, a Chicago Public School where higher classmates help their lower classmates by being a positive role model. They help them make better choices and decisions and also give them one-on-one help with their school-work.
- ❖ One strategy that can tremendously help the students is parental involvement. By parents being involved it gives youth a sense that they cannot do what they want whenever they want to. Parents should be there to put limitations on their negative actions.
- ❖ Another strategy is for the peace worker to separate both youth who are in a conflict and to listen to the both youths point of view and try to find things or hobbies that both youngsters enjoy. As a result, the peace worker can get the students to interact in a more healthy manner.
- ❖ Another strategy is for the peace workers to refer the troubled students to peer jury, which is composed of a group of students who listen to the referred student's problem and help the student find a reasonable solution. The students also follow up and communicate with the peace worker.

### **At-Risk Youth→**

- ❖ Another strategy for peace workers is to use pre-existing relationships and social networks to identify and resolve problems with teachers and parents to help the student stay on track.
- ❖ Peace workers should use journals and icebreakers activities to write what they feel to make them feel more comfortable.
- ❖ A positive and engaging strategy would be to have peace workers from different communities unite all the at-risk students they work with and create a Chicago peace project.

### **Heavily Gang Involved Youth→**

- ❖ The city should assign a violence interrupter to each of the 20 schools with the most number of violent incidents.
- ❖ Peace workers should be assigned 10 of the most troubled students and develop a plan to keep them from engaging in violence

### **Healing & Reintegration**

#### **Middle School Students →**

- ❖ Attend tutoring & motivational programs, which will help students stay on track for more successful educational achievement.
- ❖ Schools and community centers should offer youth more extracurricular activities than their school offers. By being involved in these activities youth will be able to

- find peers that share the same interests that they do and build positive relationships.
- ❖ Peace circles will help youth express themselves and handle their emotions in a positive matter.
  - ❖ One-on-one mediation will be needed for the youth. They will be able to talk to the person they have been violent towards and have a neutral party to mediate with them.

### **High school Students→**

- ❖ A good strategy to use would be keeping video diaries. For the people who do not like to write, they can express themselves in a positive non-harmful way.
- ❖ Peace workers should refer students to internships or jobs to lead them to a positive road. They can interact with their peers and work as a team.
- ❖ Students should have to have a face-to-face meeting with any person they have had a violent incident towards so that there won't be any resentful feelings.
- ❖ Students should start to do their service-learning hours on Peace projects in their community in order to become more active in their community.

### **At-Risk Youth→**

- ❖ At-risk youth need someone to lead them back to the right path. This is why they would need a mentor. This mentor would help them get back on track and should have some experience with issues at-risk youth face or should be a former at-risk youth themselves.

- ❖ The city should sponsor summer camps outside the city where youth can focus on peace trainings outside their environment.
- ❖ The city should sponsor the training of 1,500 youth and 1,500 adults in Kingian non-violent principles. North Lawndale College Prep is a leader in this subject.

### **Heavily Gang Involved Youth**

- ❖ Heavily gang involved youth who have turned their lives around should be allowed to (under supervision) to mentor and work with at-risk or heavily gang involved youth.
- ❖ Heavily gang involved youth who want to turn their lives around should be recruited to join in specific sports leagues where they also discuss issues related to violence.
- ❖ Heavily gang involved youth who have begun to turn their lives around should be recruited to form an army of violence interrupters to flood communities afflicted by violence.

### ***Peace Worker Tools, Skills & Qualities:***

Our general idea is that anyone who has contact with youth can be a peace worker. Being a peace worker would mean incorporating peace practices into your current youth work. We, as youth, are in need of peace workers who are caring, kind, friendly, and funny. Students need peace workers who are also easy to get along with and whom we can look up to as role models. We know that no one is perfect and even a peace worker will make mistakes. That's why we feel it is important that peace workers should teach youth that it is ok to make mistakes, as long as you learn from them. Here are some of the skills and qualities that we think are essential for a peace worker to have:

**Good communication**

- A peace worker must know how to talk to different social groups and effectively communicate a message in a variety of ways. It would be beneficial to listeners to be able to convey the same message to different individuals (like gangbangers and church members) to work towards a common goal.
- In order to have good communication a peace worker must practice “active listening” and take in the information that they are being told. They must comprehend what youth are saying to better build solutions with the youth.
- Peace workers should respect what youth say and their perspectives.

**Can relate to youth**

- A good peace worker should have respect for youth’s experiences
- The peace worker should be empowering to the youth and assist in life planning goals.
- A good peace worker knows how to be empathetic: They know how to put themselves in the youth’s shoes and understand their situations.
- A good peace worker should be full of energy! Having energy keeps youth engaged and motivated.

**Wisdom**

- The peace worker doesn’t necessarily have to be book smart but they do have to be street smart.
- They should have been through similar situations that youth go through and learned from their own experiences, and draw from other individuals’ experiences.
- If they lack a certain experience or challenge that a youth might be enduring, the peace worker should at least use their social

networks to understand the struggle and lead youth towards a better and positive path.

### **Problem Solver**

- The peace worker should be able to analyze tough situations, develop solutions, resolve the issue, and lead the youth to a positive outcome.

### **Reliable**

- The peace worker should keep their word. If they tell the youth that they will do something for them, then the peace worker should follow through.

### **Dedicated**

- A dedicated peace worker would be willing to make some sacrifices for the individual that they are working with.
- Peace workers should be focused on the goal of providing a safe environment for youth, not giving up on the youth, and being patient with them when they don't get something right the first time.

### **Demonstrates a positive attitude**

- A peace worker should not react impulsively.
- They should know how to be calm and leave their personal issues out of their work area.
- They should try and be positive even when they are having a bad day.

### ***Good Peace Workers' Toolbox***

A good peace worker should have the right exercises, activities, and “tools” to be able to make and teach peace in their community. Some of the tools that the peace worker should include are:

- Knowledge of the community they are working in
- Team building activities (and a team builder kit with tape, butcher paper, markers, etc)
- Icebreakers
- Knowledge of Sports leagues
- Counseling techniques
- Meditation techniques
- Knowledge of yoga, deep breathing or calming exercises
- Journaling exercises
- Mentoring techniques

### ***Constraints & Possible Solutions:***

- All people and peace workers have unique and individual strengths. Some of these qualities and skills are difficult to train workers in. Therefore, it might be easier to look for these qualities when recruiting workers to be trained.
- It may be difficult for some to connect how their work can be considered that of a peace worker. It might be useful to have sessions with groups or professionals (teachers, counselors, parole officers, youth workers, and even people like CTA employees) and discuss how they can either contribute to the cycle of violence or help cut the transmission of violence.

### *Conclusion:*

What is being recommended in this report is not a silver bullet or a quick fix, and if we do become a more peaceful city in the future, we might not even be able to point to one event, or organization or individual as the one who drove the violence down. What we need is a collective effort and a multi-year commitment to the promotion of peace.

We think that the following are the most important next steps for the city to organize a Chicago Peace Initiative around:

- 1) The city should seek more funding for successful peace programs -- both existing ones and new models that have shown success in other cities. The city can also increase their impact by advertising these programs more effectively
- 2) The city should create and sponsor peace trainings and peace certification classes. In order for people to know about peace trainings, potential peace workers need to see and hear about it. We can accomplish this by having advertisements on T.V, in newspapers, and even on billboards. This promotion would inform members of our community who are tired of violence and want to take action.
- 3) The city should also provide part time jobs for college students or youth trying to turn their lives around to work as peace workers. This would be beneficial for the youth because the college students are not that far from their age, and they have a better understanding of what youth today are going through.
- 4) The city should open up schools to train the peace workers. The city should make it so that people can graduate from school and make peace work their profession. Just like teachers go to school to get their degree in education, peace workers should be able to get a degree or certification in Peace.
- 5) Something everyone in Chicago can do is to target cutting youth violence by 50% by the year 2012. City officials should not work towards this alone. Everyone in Chicago should play a part in achieving this goal.
- 6) Youth violence can be reduced by making teens know that there are alternatives to dealing with anger and conflict instead of resorting to violence or retaliation. There needs to be a massive effort to change social norms around violence so that

youth know that violent actions are no longer normal, accepted or even tolerated. Peace could therefore spread to other people and neighborhoods as these norms begin to change.

- 7) More peace efforts and programs need to be directed at young children before they reach high school age. Violence is a learned behavior and so is peace. The earlier we teach peace strategies and behaviors, the more long term, peaceful change we can create in this city

Our collective vision about youth violence should be that Chicago should be a **Peaceful City**. Teens in Chicago should be able to get along and no one should be shot or beat up for walking in the so-called “wrong neighborhoods.” There should be less violence in and around schools, and youth need to be taught and learn how not to fight.

Youth should be able to deal with their emotions in non-violent ways. Adults in the city should be more understanding of youth and when they see youth struggle, and they should give them a hand. We should have a city where everyone looks out for their neighbor instead of bringing them down, and this kindness would slow hatred and racial issues inside the neighborhoods and across the city. These changes would help bring about our dream of a more peaceful city.