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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban
Affairs (SC-LEUA)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



Joel Segal
Congressional Senior
Legislative Assistant
Chair

Priscilla Clarke
Founder/CEO
Clarke and Associates
Co-Chair

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.
Founder/CEO
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Midtown Association
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Tamrat Medhin
Ethiopian American
Constituency Foundation

Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS
Founder
Chairperson Emeritus
Chief Executive Officer

Rabbi Arthur Blecher
Congregation Beth Chair

Kevin Dwyer, MA, NCSP
Education & Mental
Health Consultant

Roger Manno, Esq.
Delegate, 19th Legislative District
Maryland General Assembly

Diane Shamis
Progressive Democrats
of America

Legal Representation
Step toe & Johnson, LLP

CPA
T.C. Williams & Co.

**SENATOR SPENCER COGGS OF MILWAUKEE, WI INVITES
KENNETH E. BARNES, SR., MS FOUNDER/CEO OF ROOT
(REACHING OUT TO OTHERS TOGETHER) INC. TO ADDRESS
WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ON THE RESPONSIBLE
GUN OWNERSHIP BILL**

WHO: Senator Spencer Coggs (Milwaukee, WI), Mayor Tom Barrett (City of Milwaukee), Dr. Stephen Hargarten (Medical College of Wisconsin) Debra Fifer, Marna Winbush, and Beverly Anderson (Mothers Against Gun Violence), Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS, Founder/CEO, and Dr. Christopher Thompson, Board member, Boston, MA MPD (ROOT, Inc headquartered in Washington, DC)

WHAT: Mr. Barnes of ROOT is invited by Senator Spencer Coggs of Wisconsin and Debra Fifer, Chair of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Million Mom March, to offer expert testimony at an open hearing regarding Senate Bill 104, requiring background checks on the sales of "gray" or secondary, market handguns and firearms restrictions record searches for certain transfers of handguns involving residents of Milwaukee County, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 2:30pm, Press Conference
Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 3:00pm, Testimony

WHERE: Milwaukee Department of Natural Resource Building Office
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Milwaukee, WI.
Press Room.

WHY: ROOT is embarking on a national coalition and movement to address the epidemic of gun violence facing major cities throughout the United States of America. Mr. Barnes has been invited to Milwaukee to bring this message and his expertise to state legislators, along with the ROOT Guns Aside Campaign to address the epidemic of violence that exists in Milwaukee, WI and throughout the country. During his visit Mr. Barnes will attend numerous functions and will be the guest of Senator Coggs and Mayor Barrett. Mr. Barnes will also appear on several local radio and television shows, as well as attend the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Luncheon and the New Horizons and Career Youth Development Dinner as an honored guest.

811 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001 • Office (202) 332-ROOT • Toll Free (866) 570-ROOT • Fax (202) 332-8250
www.ROOTInc.org • ROOTInc@ROOTInc.org

"Too many lives are being lost; too many victims injured, and too many communities are being held stage to this systemic and endemic tide of violence. As a government, and as a community, we must begin to offer proactive, rather than reactive, alternatives."
Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS



Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS
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The Responsible Gun Ownership Bill – SB 104 is a statewide bill that will require criminal background checks for private citizen gun sales or transfers. This bill will carry penalties that will encourage responsible gun ownership. Those who violate this bill could face up to 9 months in prison and /or a \$10,000 fine. The bill will be introduced in the Labor Election and Urban Affairs Committee on May 29, 2007 in Milwaukee. The chair of the committee is State Senator Spencer Coggs.

ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together) Inc. a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, is committed to advocacy and intervention on behalf of homicide victims and their families. Our mission is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach to reducing homicides and the senseless gun and youth violence plaguing our cities.

Press Info: Priscilla Clarke (pclarkepr@aol.com) Clarke & Associates @ Tel. 202-723-2200 or visit www.clarkepr.com

ROOT Info: ROOT, Inc. at 202-332-7668, 1-866-570-ROOT or visit www.rootinc.org

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Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

2007 Senate Bill 104

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 28, 2007

3:00 PM

Testimony submitted by:

Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS

Founder and CEO

ROOT Inc.

811 Florida Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20001

www.rootinc.org

Good afternoon esteemed members of the Senate Committee of Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs. Thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak. My name is Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr. I am from Washington, DC and I represent ROOT INC., the acronym stands for Reaching Out to Others Together. The issue of gun violence is one that is both epidemic and pandemic, not just in city of Milwaukee, but in most major cities throughout the United States of America. In fact based on data for 2005 homicides, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, Milwaukee ranked 12th with a murder rate of 20.6.

You see, I for one know first hand the effects of the ravage of homicide. In September of 2001, my only son and eldest child was brutally murdered as a victim of gun violence. The young man who murdered him was 17 years of age at the time and was wanted for at least 2 other murders of which the authorities were aware. Also it was I who got information from the community and was able to provide this information to the authorities. The young man was apprehended within the next week. This young man obviously was either given, bought, or had stolen the weapon that was used to murder my son as well as at least two others.

Why am I here today before this august body offering insight and testimony? First I stand before you as a victim of gun violence, having lost my only son and oldest child. Regardless of how anyone may feel about losing a family member to gun violence, the only way to truly understand is to lose a family member to gun violence. I stand before you as a clinician, having received a MS in clinical psychology and as a third year doctoral student, whose formal education was cut short by the tragedy of my son's murder. I stand before you as someone who grew up in the inner city of Washington DC,

who from empirical knowledge understands the dynamics surrounding poverty, crime, lack of education, and violence - all directly correlating to one another. Let me state emphatically for the record that I agree with the definition by the Center For Disease Control that violence is not the problem but a symptom of the problem. Furthermore there needs to be a national movement and campaign to address the epidemic of the prevalence gun violence facing far too many communities, such as Milwaukee, throughout our nation. ROOT has embarked on such a national movement and campaign that is picking up momentum in cities throughout the country. Our effort is beginning to resonate throughout the halls of Congress. There has to a national cohesive strategy to deal with these issues. Therefore when asked by Senator Coggs and Deborah Fifer to travel hundreds of miles to offer my testimony before your committee regarding Senate Bill 104, I was honored and more than wiling to do so.

There is a quote by me that is on ROOT letterhead, on ROOT's website, all ROOT literature, and my personal ROOT email signature stating, "Too many lives are being lost; too many victims injured; and too many communities are being held hostage to this systemic and endemic tide of violence. As a government and as a community, we must begin to offer proactive, rather than reactive, alternatives." I look at Senate Bill 104 as a proactive approach rather than a reactive alternative. Why do I say this? It is my understanding, to put it simply, that Senate Bill 104 requires a background check before an individual may sell or transfer rights of firearms to another individual. This makes perfect sense to me.

Let me regress to a statement made earlier in my testimony, which was that the young man that had murdered my son had been given, possibly stolen or bought a

handgun. Now according to current laws in Milwaukee County, this same young man could move to Milwaukee and have a family member, friend, or stranger give or sell him a gun without a background check. In Washington, DC our city laws are probably the most stringent in the United States; yet there is a prevalence of hand guns that seem to belie that point. As citizens in Milwaukee County, you legally have the right to gun ownership. As founder and CEO of ROOT, it is not the position of our organization to take a stance either for or against the individual's right to bear arms. It is the position of ROOT to take a stance against gun violence. What I am here to say is that Senate Bill 104 requiring a background check before transferring gun ownership from one individual to another after it has been bought legally, only makes sense as a proactive approach to prevent tragedies from occurring. For example, unless it is something I do not quite understand, a citizen of Milwaukee County can currently give a gun, or sell a gun to another citizen - whether it be a family member, friend, or stranger in Milwaukee County with no background check at all. What, under current law, prevents a citizen of Milwaukee County from giving or selling a gun to a hijacker, murderer, robber, and bank robber, someone who has a restraining order against them or even a serial killer - for God's sake? From my understanding all that this law is asking is to prevent guns from getting into the hands of those who may not have good intentions to be responsible gun owners. To think that this is an attack on the rights of an individual to bear arms or an attack on second amendment issues, in my humble opinion, is totally ridiculous. If that were the case, I can assure you that I would not have traveled from Washington, DC to Milwaukee, Wisconsin no matter who requested to support such an attack.

"I wholeheartedly support ROOT and its efforts with the GUNS ASIDE campaign."

-District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey

"I am delighted to offer my support to ROOT and Mr. Barnes for this very important GUNS ASIDE campaign. His activism assisted me in saving DC gun laws in the Senate in March of this year."

-Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

"NOBLE is proud to support, as well as aid, in the effort of ROOT's GUNS ASIDE program."

-Jimmie L. Dodson, President of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives

"The problem of violence and homicide affects all of us here in Prince George's County and in the District; therefore it is necessary to have a proactive program like GUNS ASIDE."

-Prince George's County States Attorney, Glenn Ivey



toll free **(866) 570-ROOT**

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ROOT

"Too many lives are being lost; too many victims injured, and too many communities are being held hostage to this systemic and endemic tide of violence. As a government, and as a community, we must begin to offer proactive, rather than reactive, alternatives."

- Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS TOGETHER TO GET TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

MISSION STATEMENT

ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together) Inc. is a non-profit organization that advocates and intervenes on behalf of homicide victims and their families.

ROOT motivates and mobilizes communities to take a proactive approach to reducing homicides and the gun violence occurring in cities.

HISTORY

Kenneth Barnes, Sr., was working towards his doctoral degree at Loyola College in Maryland, the first and the only African/American male as well as being the oldest student in the program at the time, when tragedy of the worst kind struck. His oldest son was murdered. Rather than do nothing, Mr. Barnes found out through neighborhood sources whom the perpetrator was and turned the information over to the police. It was later found out that not only was the killer wanted by the police, he had killed at least two other individuals of which the authorities were aware. The results were that the murderer, a 17 year old youth, was apprehended two days after the murder of his son. Since that time, Mr. Barnes helped to found an organization by the name of ROOT - Reaching Out to Others Together - www.rootinc.org. It is his firm contention that only because of the efforts of a community working together to include the police, the community at large, the media, and the business community, and himself was the killer so swiftly apprehended.

WHAT WE DO

ROOT Inc. works to service individuals and families affected by gun violence and homicides. Through its ongoing advocacy, proactive awareness campaign, and multi-disciplinary approach ROOT has been able to accomplish several milestones in making an impact in the Washington DC metropolitan community.

ROOT Initiatives

Guns Aside National Campaign: Gun Violence Prevention Awareness

Metropolitan Area Model: "Community in Action"

Students in Action Program

Guns Aside Workshops

2007 Annual Events

Guns Aside Month - January

Racing to Eradicate Gun Violence - April 14

National Crime Victims Rights Week - April 22-28

Father's Day Commemoration Ceremonies - June 16

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GET INVOLVED!
DONATE!
BECOME A SPONSOR!
VOLUNTEER!

ROOT is always looking for **VOLUNTEERS**, **SPONSORS**, and **DONORS** who are dedicated and looking to affect change within the world around them. Become a supporter of ROOT and our on going programs like Guns Aside. We accept donations from corporations and individuals toward our programming. Your tax donations are tax deductible.

Donation Amount (Please Circle)

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$250 Other

NAME:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

WEBSITE:

Reaching Out to Others Together



REACHING OUT to OTHERS TOGETHER

Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS

Joel Segal
Congressional Senior
Legislative Assistant
Chair

Priscilla Clarke
Founder/CEO
Clarke and Associates
Co-Chair

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.
Founder/CEO
Hip Hop Caucus
Co-Chair

Arvilla Payne Jackson, PhD
Howard University
Secretary

Christopher Thompson, PhD
Boston Metropolitan
Police Department
Treasurer

Scott Pomeroy
Midtown Association
Parliamentarian

Tamrat Medhin
Ethiopian American
Constituency Foundation

Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS
Founder
Chairperson Emeritus
Chief Executive Officer

Rabbi Arthur Blecher
Congregation Beth Chair

Kevin Dwyer, MA, NCSF
Education & Mental
Health Consultant

Roger Manno, Esq.
Delegate, 19th Legislative District
Maryland General Assembly

Diane Shamis
Progressive Democrats
of America

Legal Representation
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP

CPA
T.C. Williams & Co.

Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., MS, attended Loyola College in Maryland. He was the oldest student in the program. While Mr. Barnes was working towards his doctoral degree, tragedy of the worst kind struck – his son was murdered.

Rather than do nothing, Mr. Barnes found out through neighborhood sources the identity of the perpetrator and turned the information over to the police. It was later discovered that not only was the killer wanted by the police, he had killed at least two other individuals of which the authorities were aware. Consequently, the murderer, a 17 year old youth, was apprehended within a week after the murder of his son.

Since that time, Mr. Barnes helped establish the organization ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together), Inc. It is his firm contention that because of the efforts of the community working together, to include the police, community-at-large, media, business community, and himself that the killer so swiftly apprehended.

ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together), Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to advocacy and intervention on behalf of homicide victims and their families. ROOT's mission is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach in reducing homicides as well as the senseless gun violence and youth violence plaguing our cities.

Mr. Barnes has conducted workshops and seminars locally and nationally, as well as testified on numerous occasions before the DC City Council. As the CEO of ROOT, Mr. Barnes has been interviewed by the local, national and international media – press, radio, and television.

Mr. Barnes earned his Masters of Science Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of the District of Columbia in 1999. He received his BA in psychology, magna cum laude, from the University of the District of Columbia in 1997.

He currently serves as the chair on the board of WAMU Radio, American University Community Counsel; chairs the Program Sub-Committee on the Health Information Response Team (DC Department of Health); as well as a member on the board of the National Capital YMCA and the MidCity Business Association (Washington, DC).

Mr. Barnes is a member of the American Psychological Association, DC Psychological Association, Association of Black Psychologists, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, DC Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development, the Rotary Club (DC Chapter) and the Greater Shaw/U Street Roundtable.

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

DOCTORAL Psychology	Loyola College of Maryland	1999-2001
Accepted as 2 nd year doctoral student		1999
Presenter, Relapse Prevention Center for Poverty Solutions' 12 th Annual Statewide Conference		1999
Letter of Appreciation & Workshop Evaluation Carolyn Harmon, Director of Research and Training, Center for Poverty Solutions		1999
Externship - Ft. Howard VA Mental Health Center		July 1999 - May 2000
Letter of recommendation Mark Nolder, Ph.D., Coordinator, Mental Health Clinic		2000
Mentor and Advisor for African American Students Dr. D. Haskins, director of Masters Program, Loyola College		March 21, 2000
Interviewer, Psychology Department Interview Day		August 2000
Charter member, Association of Black Psychologists Loyola campus, original chapter		October 2000
Elected Regional Representative, The Student Circle Of The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPSI)		
MS, Clinical Psychology	University of the District of Columbia	1999
Recipient, National Service Award, UDC Chapter Psi Chi		1999
Psi Chi President, Certificate of Appreciation		1997-1999
Practicum and volunteer, Andromeda Mental Health Clinic		1998
President, UDC Branch, Psi Chi		1998-1999
Vice-President, Psychology Club		1998-1999
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences Commendation Psi Chi & Psychology Department		1998
American Academy of Distinguished Students		1997, 1998
Recipient, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Award		1997-1998
President, UDC Branch, Psi Chi		1997-1998
BA, Psychology	University of the District of Columbia	1997
Magna Cum Laude, College of Arts and Sciences		1997
UDC Student Life Development Award Finalist		

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CONTINUED**BA, Psychology****University of the District of Columbia**

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES	1996, 1997
President, UDC Branch, Psi Chi	
Charter Member, UDC Branch of Psi Chi	
Co-established first Psi Chi chapter, (Psychology National Honor Society)	1996, 1997
APA MUSA (Minority Undergraduate Student of Excellence Award) Finalist	
Honda All-Star Team Challenge Psychology	1996
Honors Curriculum	
Dean's List	1994, 1995, 1996; 1997
National Dean's List	1994-1995

STUDENT AFFILIATIONS

- Graduate Student Affiliate, American Psychological Association (APA)
- American Psychological Association Graduate Students (APAGS)
- Graduate Student Affiliate, Society for the Psychological Study Of Ethnic Minority Issues (Division 45 - APA)
- Graduate Student Affiliate, Division on Addictions (Division 50, APA)
- Graduate Student Member, Eastern Psychological Association (EPA)
- Graduate Student Member, Association of Black Psychologists (ABPSI)
- Graduate Student Member, Society for The Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
- Graduate Student Affiliate, District of Columbia Psychological Association (DCPA)
- Graduate Student Member, Maryland Gical Association (MPA)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2007 Ambassador for Peace North America, Universal Peace Federation
- 2007 5th Anniversary Semi-Finalist for the Volvo For Life Awards, Washington, D.C.'s Greatest Hometown Hero
- 2007 Verizon Yellow Pages Local Hero
- 2007 NAACP Youth Council of Washington, DC Outstanding Leadership Award for Juvenile Justice
- 2006 Graduate of the Prevent Institute: Moving Towards Violence Prevention, a six-month collaborative effort with the Department of Health, sponsored by the Prevent Institute & the University of North Carolina
- 2006 Awardee of the 9th Annual Suitland Festival/Community Appreciation
- 2006 DC Idol Hands Community Service Award Presentation
- 2005 Public Service Award, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Washington DC Chapter
- 2005 Participant of the 52nd National Security Forum at the Air War College
- 2004 Fort Meyer Protestant Gospel Community Service Award
- 2004 Loren WarBoys UnSung Hero Awards, Youth Law Center
- 2004 "Keeping the Dream Alive" Martin Luther King Celebratory Award
- 2004 Robert Lamb Humanitarian Award, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- 2003 Banneker Douglas Museum/MCAAHC Community Service Award
- December 3, 2001 Kenny Barnes Day (DC Council Resolution)

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

MEMBERSHIPS

- Washington, DC Rotary Club
- Member Incoming Mayor Adrian Fenty, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development
- Member Greater Shaw Greater U St. Roundtable
- Member District of Columbia Suicide Prevention Taskforce
- Member, The Charles F. Menninger Society
- Member, American Psychological Association (APA)
- Member, Maryland Psychological Association (MPA)
- Member, Association Of Black Psychologists, (ABPSI)
- Member, District Of Columbia Psychological Association (DCPA)
- Member, Society For The Psychological Study Of Social Issues (SPSSI)
- Member, National Association Of The Advancement Of Colored People (NAACP)
- Member, NOBLE (National Organization Of Black Law Enforcement Officials)

AFFILIATIONS

- Founder, CEO ROOT (Reaching Out To Others Together), Inc. (501(c)(3))
- Chair, WAMU Radio 88.5FM, American University Community Council
- Chair Program Subcommittee, Washington DC Department of Health, Health Information Response Team
- YMCA National Capital Board of Directors
- MidCity Business Association Board of Directors

PAST AFFILIATIONS

- Organizer, Chair Washington, DC Chapter PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN (POMC)
- Steering Committee Member , Vice-Chair, Board Of Directors, 14th & U Main Street Initiative
- Public Safety Chair, Board of Directors, 14TH & U Business And Arts Coalition (14th & UBAC)
- Member, 3rd District Advisory Commission (CAC)
- Founder Chair of the PSA 305 Public Safety Association and Vice Chair of 14th and Main St. Initiative
- Public Safety Chair Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B
- Public Safety Chair Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association

PAST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- President, LeDroit Park Renaissance Committee
- Member, LeDroit Park Civic Association
- Honored for community involvement with designation of special (low-numbered - 989) license plates by Councilmember Frank Smith, Ward 1
- Honored for community involvement by incoming Councilmember Jim Graham; reissued special license plates, 1999
- Volunteer, Washington Hospital Center (Substance Abuse Counseling)
- Certificate - 250 hours community service, 1996
- Certificate - 500 hours community service, 1996
- Tie pin - 1000 hours community service, 1997
- Certificate - 500 hours community service, 1999.
- Volunteer, research assistant, federally funded study of violence in the lives of Afro-American men UDC, 1996
- Guest Speaker and conducted workshop - Action for the Homeless' 10th Annual Statewide Conference, Maryland, October 1997
- Volunteer - Andromeda Mental Health Clinic
- Recommended for Child Abuse and Neglect Committee by Mayor Marion Barry and Councilmember Frank Smith, October 1998
- Recommended for Local Business Opportunity Commission by Mayor Marion Barry and Councilmember Frank Smith, October 1998
- Member, McKinley Tech High School Alumni Association
- Member, Councilmember Jim Graham Steering Committee, 2002
- Member, Cardoza - Shaw Neighborhood Association (CSNA), January 2003

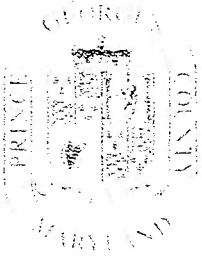
Christopher Thompson, PhD Biography

Christopher Thompson, PhD is employed by the Boston Police Department as the Community Policing Neighborhood Coordinator for Area B-2, a section of Boston described as one of the busiest police district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with possibly the most violent aggregate of gang members and criminals. Some of his responsibilities include grant writing/monitoring, coordination of the District Prostitution Task Force, Problem Properties Task Force, Multiunit Housing Initiative as well as the Weed & Seed Project [one of the ten best in the nation and the recipient of the Department of Justice Award for same in 2004].

Dr. Thompson is responsible for the creation and maintenance of a broad array of partnerships and collaborations in which the District police work cohesively, collaboratively and in partnership with law enforcement agencies [probation, parole, juvenile, prosecutors on the federal, state and local levels, sheriff and federal agencies]; as well as other public agencies with related issues impacting quality of life and public safety; and community-based organizations who partner with law enforcement. Dr Thompson came to the Police Department with a distinguished career background in community organization, education, social services, substance abuse, mental health and evaluation/organizational development.

Dr. Thompson received his PhD from the University of Virginia and his Masters and Bachelor's degrees from University of Wisconsin. He has held high level management positions in a number of state and local government as well as private agencies for the past 35 years and is a nationally recognized expert in multiple fields. Dr. Thompson is a community activist keenly engaged in projects such as gang intervention/prevention, domestic violence, trauma recovery, mental health substance abuse, and reentry.

Dr. Thompson sits on the Board of Directors of Project RIGHT, an organization, which is comprised of a collaboration of 50 community-based agencies in the Grove Hall section of Boston. He is President of the Board of Quincy Geneva Housing Corporation, which provides economic development and affordable housing for over 400 families in the Grove Hall section. Dr. Thompson sits on the Board of Directors of ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together), Inc., serves as the Treasurer and facilitates the direction of its development. He is an active participant in a variety of other boards in such areas as peer leadership, trauma intervention, mental health, substance abuse, community organization, and gang suppression. Dr. Thompson is a "shaker and a mover" for community empowerment and functioning institutions as well as a firm believer in the Constitution of the United States, which begins with the words "We the people".



A Proclamation

COUNTY COUNCIL

Marilynn M. Bland
Will Campos
Samuel H. Dean
Thomas E. Dernoga
Camille A. Exum
David C. Harrington
Tony Knotts
Eric C. Olson
Ingrid M. Turner

WHEREAS, nationally one child every three hours are killed by gun fire, eight children every day are killed by gun fire, and more than 50 children every week are killed by gun fire; and

WHEREAS, the ROOT Incorporated Guns Aside Campaign is an all-inclusive media campaign which will heighten the consciousness while raising awareness of the severity of gun violence within our communities and schools; and

WHEREAS, ROOT, Inc., founded in June 2002, as a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia, committed to advocacy, education, and intervention on behalf of individuals and families who have been victimized by homicides, and the mission of ROOT, Inc. is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach to reducing homicides and the senseless gun violence occurring in our cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, in one year, more than 80 Americans die from gun violence, and the number one cause of death for African-American males between the ages 15-34 is death by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, for every fire arm fatality, there are two non-fatal fire arm injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council is pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and support ROOT, Incorporated for its implementation of public awareness campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by the Prince George's County Council that January 2007 is declared "Guns Aside Campaign Month," sponsored by ROOT, Incorporated. FURTHER, all residents and citizens are encouraged to participate in the non-violence campaigns to protect our communities.

CAMILLE A. EXUM
COUNCIL CHAIR

DAVID C. HARRINGTON
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NEW YORK



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510-3204

January 26, 2006

Mr. Kenneth E. Barnes
ROOT
2905 11th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thank you for sharing with me the information on ROOT and thank you also for your dedicated efforts on behalf of our nation's children.

With appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Rodham Clinton



Council of the District of Columbia

Resolution

COUNCILMEMBER FENTY

COUNCILMEMBER GRAHAM

COUNCILMEMBER AMBROSE

COUNCILMEMBER CATANIA

COUNCILMEMBER GRAY

COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON

COUNCILMEMBER BARRY

CHAIRMAN CROPP

COUNCILMEMBER MENDELSON

COUNCILMEMBER SCHWARTZ

COUNCILMEMBER BROWN

COUNCILMEMBER EVANS

COUNCILMEMBER ORANG

JANUARY 2006 AS THE GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION OF 2005

WHEREAS, ROOT INCORPORATED WAS FOUNDED IN JUNE 2002, AS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE DISTRICT, COMMITTED TO ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY HOMICIDES;

WHEREAS, THE MISSION OF ROOT, INCORPORATED IS TO MOTIVATE AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES TO TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO REDUCING HOMICIDES AND THE SENSELESS G VIOLENCE OCCURRING IN OUR CITIES;

WHEREAS, FOR MANY YEARS, RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE WITNESSED AN INCREASE IN GUN-RELATED INCIDENTS AND DEATH IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS;

WHEREAS, FROM JANUARY 2002 TO NOVEMBER 2005, 8,111 ILLEGAL GUNS WERE RECOVERED BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, JUVENILES, AGES 17 AND UNDER, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF RECOVERED CRIME GUNS;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, INDIVIDUALS, AGES 18 TO 24 ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 47 PERCENT OF GUN CRIMES;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 34 IS DEATH BY GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 24 IS DEATH BY GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, ON AVERAGE, ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF VICTIMS WHO SUFFER FROM GUN INJURIES ARE UNINSURED OR ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTED MEDICAL INSURANCE. NATIONALLY, AN ESTIMATED 150,000 PEOPLE ARE TREATED ANNUALLY IN U.S. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR NONFATAL GUN-RELATED INJURIES AND APPROXIMATELY 80,000 REQUIRE ADMISSION FOR IN-PATIENT CARE;

WHEREAS, COST ESTIMATES RANGE FROM \$1.4 BILLION TO \$4 BILLION ANNUALLY IN DIRECT MEDICAL COSTS AND \$19 BILLION ANNUALLY IN INDIRECT COSTS, SUCH AS LOST FUTURE EARNINGS AND PERMANENT DISABILITIES;

WHEREAS, FOR EVERY FIREARM FATALITY, THERE ARE TWO NON-FATAL FIREARM INJURIES;

WHEREAS, THROUGH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS, THE GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN WILL PROACTIVELY APPROACH GUN RELATED VIOLENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

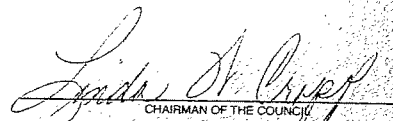
WHEREAS, THE ROOT INCORPORATED GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGN WHICH WILL HEIGHTEN THE CONSCIOUSNESS WHILE RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SEVERITY OF GUN VIOLENCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS; AND

WHEREAS, THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS ROOT INCORPORATED, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, SUCH AS THE GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THAT THIS RESOLUTION MAY BE CITED AS THE "JANUARY 2006 AS THE GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION OF 2006"

SEC. 2. THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZES ROOT INCORPORATED FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

This resolution shall take effect immediately


Linda A. Crisp
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Thereby Certify that this Resolution is true and adopted as stated herein



Council of the District of Columbia

Resolution

CHAIRMAN GRAY

COUNCILMEMBER BARRY COUNCILMEMBER BARRY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN
COUNCILMEMBER CATANIA COUNCILMEMBER CHEH COUNCILMEMBER EVANS
COUNCILMEMBER MENDELSON COUNCILMEMBER SCHWARTZ COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS, J.
COUNCILMEMBER WELLS

GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION OF 2007

WHEREAS, ROOT INC., FOUNDED IN JUNE 2002, IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, COMMITTED TO ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY HOMICIDES, AND MOTIVATING AND MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO REDUCING HOMICIDES AND SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, FOR MANY YEARS, RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE WITNESSED AN INCREASE IN GUN-RELATED INCIDENTS AND DEATHS IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS;

WHEREAS, SINCE JANUARY 2002 THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS RECOVERED OVER 8,000 ILLEGAL GUNS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

WHEREAS, ROOT INC. SEEKS TO CREATE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA TO REDUCE GUN-RELATED VIOLENCE AND YOUTH VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, JUVENILES, AGES 17 AND UNDER, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF GUN CRIME;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, YOUTH AGES 18-24 ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 47 PERCENT OF GUN CRIMES;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15-24 IS DEATH BY GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, AMERICA IS LOSING TOO MANY CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY ONE CHILD IS KILLED EVERY THREE HOURS BY GUN FIRE;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, IN ONE YEAR, MORE CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIE FROM GUNFIRE THAN FROM CANCER, PNEUMONIA, INFLUENZA, ASTHMA, AND HIV/AIDS COMBINED;

WHEREAS, DAILY, MORE THAN 80 AMERICANS DIE FROM GUN VIOLENCE;

WHEREAS, NATIONALLY, AN ESTIMATED 150,000 PEOPLE ARE TREATED ANNUALLY IN U.S. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR NONFATAL GUN-RELATED INJURIES AND APPROXIMATELY 80,000 REQUIRE ADMISSION FOR IN-PATIENT CARE, COSTING AS MUCH AS \$4 BILLION ANNUALLY IN DIRECT MEDICAL COSTS;

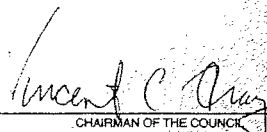
WHEREAS, ROOT INC.'S "GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN" IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGN, HEIGHTENING THE CONSCIOUSNESS AND RAISING THE AWARENESS OF THE SEVERITY OF GUN VIOLENCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS; AND

WHEREAS, THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS ROOT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THAT THIS RESOLUTION MAY BE CITED AS THE "GUNS ASIDE CAMPAIGN AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION OF 2007".

SEC. 2. THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS ROOT INC FOR ITS SERVICE TO VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND DECLARES THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2007 AS "GUNS ASIDE MONTH" IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

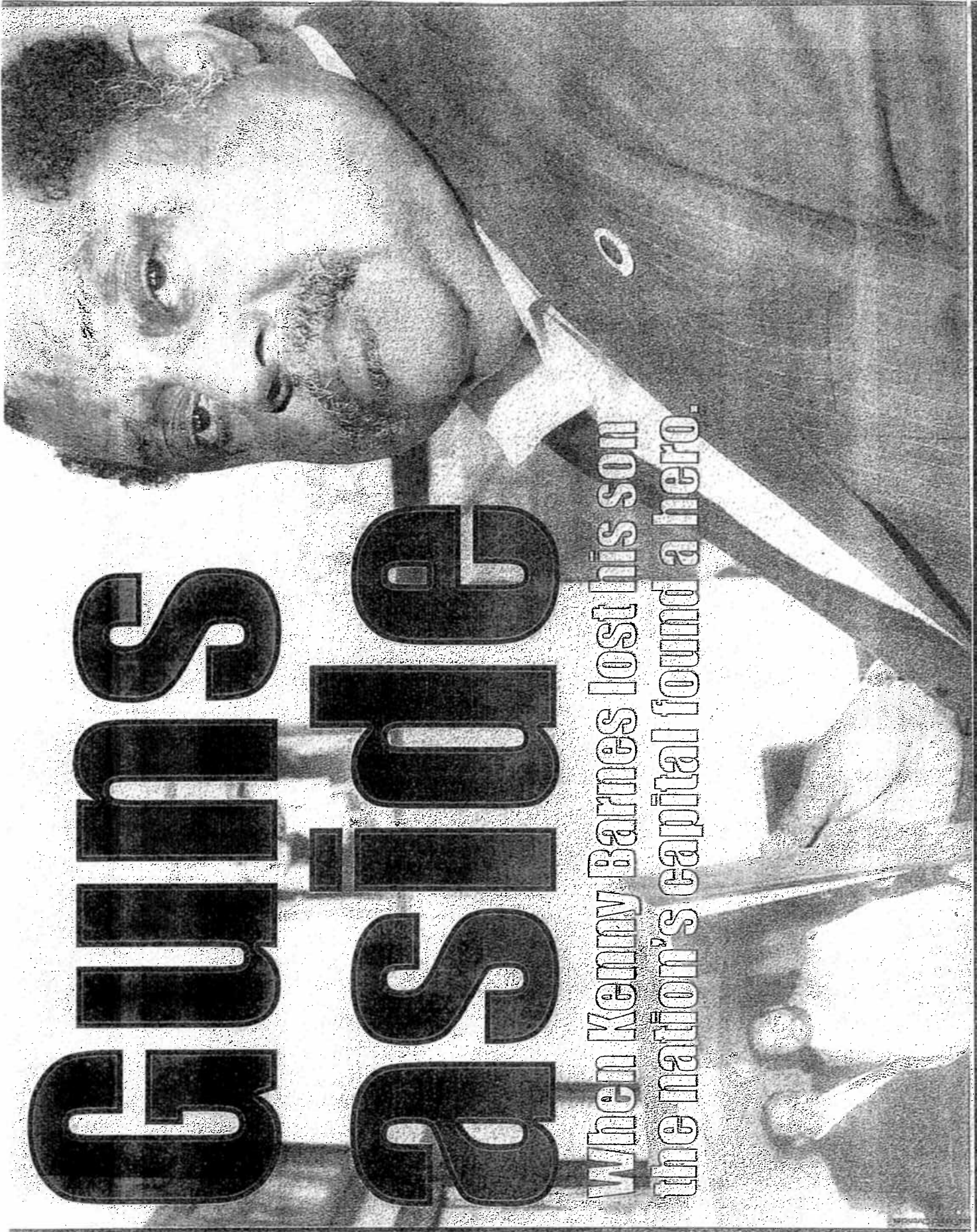

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

I hereby Certify that this Resolution is true and adopted as stated herein.

Resolution Number:

GUINNS aside

When Kenny Barnes lost his son
the nation's capital found a hero.



Barnes attacks violence at the ROOT

By Kevin Wilson
Contributing Writer

If you had told Kenny Barnes Jr., the newlywed, entrepreneur that he would die on the steps of his U Street clothing store, he never would have believed you. He had just opened up Boutique U, a clothing store on 11th and U Street. At the time some questioned his decision, but young Kenny Barnes Jr. had incredible vision. Where others had seen a dilapidated, drug-ridden wasteland, he saw promise.

On one slow Monday night in September 2001, Barnes sat on the steps of his store rapping to a couple of boys from his old neighborhood. Finally one of the young men stood to leave. Without warning, he pulled out a handgun and aimed at Barnes' head, intent on robbing the trusting storeowner.

"You know what time it is?" The man asked.

When Barnes resisted, the young gun man squeezed the trigger, and shot Barnes in the face killing him instantly.

It was September 24, 2001.

Sixty-one-year-old Kenny Barnes, Sr. was returning home from a psychology class in Baltimore when his cell phone rang. His sister's number appeared on the display. Denita Cook was calling, probably just checking in, he thought. They talked everyday. When Barnes answered, Cook uttered the words no parent ever wants to hear: "Your son has been shot."

The police report indicated that

Kenny Barnes, Jr. was shot, killed, and robbed of \$400, while a third man laid on the floor pretending to be dead.

The officers asked Barnes to stay at home and let them do their jobs. Barnes was beside himself. How could he go home now? Barnes turned to the streets of his youth for answers and that same night his son's killer had a name: James Hill.

Ironically, Hill, 16, was the son of a man that Barnes Sr. grew up with in the Trinidad neighborhood of Northeast DC. Thirty days before killing Kenny Barnes Jr., Hill stood in the middle of Trinidad Avenue and shot another man nine times in front of nearly 20,000 people. The year before, Hill shot another person at the Black Hole Night Club on Georgia Avenue. In both cases, there were witnesses who refused to testify.

"Here was a murderer not running, but walking the streets, who'd kill people in the Fifth and Third formation," Barnes said.

Blind rage and frustration nearly consumed the grieving father. He wanted to kill his son's assassin. But the lessons of his youth learned at the feet of his mother and grandmother calmed him and he chose another direction.

Hill surrendered in October 2001 and was sentenced in October 2002 to a 105-year prison sentence for three second-degree murder charges, which carry 33 years apiece, and six years for carrying a concealed weapon.



Kenny Barnes Sr. lost his son to gun violence in 2001 and started ROOT, Inc. to give young people better choices.

Barnes learned that Hill had a long rap sheet in the juvenile justice system. A system that was badly broken.

Youth Service Administration, under the leadership of Gayle Turner, failed to submit a report that James Hill was missing from a halfway house he was remanded to for a previous sentence until February 2003. Hill had been jailed a year and a half before YSA even reported that he had missing from the juvenile justice system.

Barnes turned all of his anger towards exposing the failed Youth Services Administration. Barnes' daughter-in-law sued the Mayor, the district government and Youth Service Administration for 150 million.

Ultimately, the lawsuit led to

Gayle Turner's termination. YSA was dismantled as a direct result of Kenny Barnes' actions.

"I went after the man who murdered my son, and the agency that allowed him to be free," Barnes said.

At 61, Barnes took his life savings and went bankrupt to create the non-profit organization, Reaching Out To Others Together, ROOT, Inc.

ROOT Inc. works with law enforcement officials, families of victims of violent crimes, and communities to stamp out violence in the city. Without any experience in operating a national campaign on gun violence, Barnes admitted that at times he feels like a salmon swimming upstream.

"There are programs, but no

Barnes is taking his crusade against violence to the steps of the John Wilson building, Friday April 6. At 10:30am, Barnes, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Councilmember Jim Graham, and several city organizations will kick off an aggressive awareness campaign to address gun violence.

"We have a lot of committed people with the will and compassion to save lives in order to change the direction of the city," he said.

For more information about ROOT, Inc. visit www.rootsinc.org.

Leaders Say Put Guns Aside

Photo By Robert Ridley



▲ L-r: ROOT, Inc. founder Kenneth Barnes, whose son was slain, with D.C. Councilman Adrian Fenty (D-Ward 4), and Chuck Brown, D.C.'s Godfather of Go-Go.

By Amanda S. Miller
WI Contributing Writer

Officially launched Father's Day weekend of 2004, the Guns Aside Campaign founded by the organization ROOT, Inc. has been addressing the realities of gun violence and bringing awareness to the growing problem of violence among the youth in America. As a part of the campaign, ROOT, Inc. holds vigils for the family members and friends of those lost to gun violence; attends collaborative meetings with city officials, and attempts to make public officials aware of the expense of gun violence in the District of Columbia, especially its impact on our youth.

January has been especially pivotal for the campaign as Mayor Williams formally declared January "Guns Aside Month" in the District of Columbia. Throughout the month, ROOT, Inc. has been working even more diligently to commemorate this inaugural month with a rigorous schedule of events involving young people all over the city.

"Guns Aside Month" is important because Chief Ramsey had previously declared a state of emergency," said Ava Harrison, coordinator of the Guns Aside Campaign for ROOT, Inc.

She stated that for the month of January, ROOT, Inc. and its part-

ners are working to constantly advocate keeping gun violence on the forefront of the community's consciousness.

To bring the first Guns Aside Month to a close ROOT, Inc., in collaboration with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and LJ Management, will be hosting two forums and a benefit concert on Monday Jan. 30 and Tuesday Jan. 31, all at the Historic Lincoln Theatre on U Street.

With music and the images perpetrated by the music industry through violent lyrics via gun-wielding artists having such an impact on impressionable young people, the Guns Aside Campaign is including a candid discussion with music industry insiders including Jermaine Dupri, Chuck Brown and others on Monday morning at 9:30am.

"The goal of the event on the 30th is to have a mix of middle, junior, and high school students to participate in a question and answer session with record company executives and discuss the role of media in music," Harrison said.

On Tuesday, Guns Aside will bring the focus back home on local issues. Another group of students will have an opportunity to brief the five mayoral candidates on the problems concerning the youth in the city. That forum also starts at 9:30am.

"We're going to have the five mayoral candidates do a Q and A with high school students asking the candidates what they plan to do not only with violence but education but youth as well," Harrison said.

The final component of the Guns Aside Month activities will be a benefit concert Tuesday Jan. 31 at the Lincoln Theatre featuring Anthony Hamilton, Avante, Calvin Richardson, Javier and special guest host Raheem Devaughn. Doors open at 7 pm, tickets are available at the Lincoln Theatre and all proceeds will go towards strengthening and expanding the Guns Aside Campaign.

Says Harrison, "The goal is to establish a strong foothold in D.C. before we launch nationally."

Owner Shot to Death in U Street NW Shop

Graham Complains Police Presence Has Been Reduced

By DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD
Washington Post Staff Writer

The owner of a U Street NW clothing store was shot to death in his shop Monday night, apparently during a robbery, D.C. police and a friend who said he witnessed the shooting said yesterday.

Kenneth Barnes, 37, owned Boutique U, a clothing store that sold skintight and shimmering outfits to the club crowd of the "New U." Some weekend nights, his corner shop at 11th and U streets NW seemed like a club to itself, and family and friends said Barnes kept it open past midnight so customers could stop by to talk and shop.

Family members said yesterday that they believe this practice, in a neighborhood struggling with crime problems, led to his death.

"He was a free spirit, and he was an entrepreneur... the very essence of the word," said Barnes' father, Kenneth Barnes Sr. He said his son confided that he was afraid he might be robbed because he often kept later hours than nearby businesses.

Barnes was shot once shortly after 7 p.m. by an unknown assailant, probably during a robbery, said Sgt. Kevin Rice of the 3rd District. Lt. Terry Weeks said that two men entered the store before the shooting and that police had interviewed one witness.

D.C. Council member Jim Gra-

ham (D-Ward 1) complained that police patrols have been reduced in the area since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He said a greater police presence might have prevented Barnes's death.

"What was the police coverage on that part of U Street last night?" Graham said. "If you have a visible police presence, people tend not to commit crime."

The city's police department



Kenneth Barnes Jr., left, poses with Jesse Jackson and Kenneth Barnes Sr. "He was a free spirit and he was an entrepreneur," Barnes Sr. said of his son.

FAMILY PHOTO

store with a friend. After a brief conversation, according to the witness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the man pulled out a rust-colored automatic.

"You know what time this is," the man said to Barnes, apparently indicating he was about to rob him. The witness said Barnes, used to joking with the man, didn't take him seriously and kept talking on his cordless phone.

"Young 'un, get that gun out of my face... Get the gun out of my store," Barnes said, according to the witness.

The man squeezed the trigger, but the gun didn't fire. The man pulled the trigger again, the witness said, shooting Barnes once in the head. He then rifled through Barnes's pockets and shot at the witness, missing him, before running out.

Barnes Sr. said his son, who was married and had four children, built the store from a little shop in the middle of the block to a larger store on the corner. "He always wanted to be a salesman," said Barnes, who is retired from a sales manager job at a cable company. "He kind of followed along in my footsteps."

Barnes Jr. sold high-end club wear, including tiny sequined tops, evening dresses and, according to his Web site, lingerie and fashions for "exotic professionals." The shopkeeper was hardly less flamboyant, friends said. "He had a staff of attractive saleswomen he sometimes sent onto the sidewalk to tell passersby about Boutique U's specials.

"Everybody knew Kenny Barnes," said Sally Fonua, 24, a friend. "This is U Street... People on U Street are like family."

Feature

Reaching Out to Others Together (ROOT)

September 24, 2001 for many of us still holds strong feelings and emotions. Two weeks had not passed since the most tragic events in American history. Earlier that day, a tornado ripped through Laurel, Maryland, and left a path of chaos and destruction in its aftermath. That day would also leave the same devastation in one man's life.

Kenny Barnes, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Reaching Out to Others Together (ROOT), lost his only son, Kenny Barnes, Jr., to a senseless act of violence. Most people cannot imagine the mind-set of a parent who has recently lost a child, and what those feelings motivate in us. Barnes channeled that anger and revenge into positive energy, he focused on finding the person responsible for his son's death.

"I learned that there was an eyewitness who could identify the perpetrator by sight but did not know who he was," said Barnes. "Through conversation with various sources, I learned that others had witnessed the murderer as he left the store," he adds.

Because of his pursuit for justice by action, the police were alerted right away and the killer turned himself into police custody within 48 hours. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that this person was wanted for two other murders.

Barnes, who received his Masters in Clinical Psychology from the University of the District of Columbia and is pursuing a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Loyola College of Maryland, has embarked on leaving behind a legacy of change and

help. With the support of Washington, DC area business leaders and DC Councilmember Jim Graham, Barnes founded a non-profit organization committed to advocacy and intervention on behalf of individuals and families who have been victimized by unsolved homicides. ROOT works with minorities and low-income families providing the support system that is sorely missed in these groups. The organization's mission is to bring visibility and focus community and organizational resources on these homicides on behalf of families, while addressing the root causes of the systematic apathy that fosters a culture of violence in our youth today.

His tireless efforts have not gone without notice by public officials or community members. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia has given her support. On December 3, 2001, Barnes was recognized and commemorated for his heroic efforts and participation in assisting the police with bringing his son's murderer to justice and subsequently creating ROOT. The council of the District of Columbia declared it Kenny Barnes, Sr. Day in the District of Columbia.

ROOT held a press conference in Washington, DC on November 22, which



Kenny Barnes, founder and CEO of Reaching Out to Others Together (ROOT), is pictured speaking at his son's funeral on September 29, 2001.

was the day of sentencing for the murderer of Kenny Barnes, Jr. Additionally, ROOT was recently involved in a case where a mother asked for the organization's assistance in initiating action against her son's murder. ROOT's involvement helped lead to a warrant for the alleged murderer's arrest.

"At the press conference, we showed how justice, when a community works in concert together, can be served," adds Barnes.

For more information on ROOT, please contact Kenny Barnes, Sr. at rootceo@yahoo.com.

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How to get out of JAIL

by The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan—Pg. 20

The Final Call

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VOLUME 21 NUMBER 11

DECEMBER 18, 2001

U.S. \$1.00



DECEMBER 18, 2001

THE FINAL CALL

7

Father roots out son's murderer

D.C. dad forms group to help solve crimes and ease pain of victim's families

by Nisa Islam Muhammad
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON— When Kenneth E. Barnes Sr. lost his namesake son to a senseless, brutal murder, he immediately wanted to know who had done it and why. The police were on the case but that wasn't enough. Determined to have his son's killer brought to justice, Mr. Barnes conducted his own investigation, interviewing people in the community, making phone calls and speaking with his son's friends and associates until he developed enough information to take to the police.

"Just did what I had to do," he told *The Final Call*. "I did what any father would have done."

But not many fathers do what Mr. Barnes did. He was motivated to take charge of the case when he arrived at his son's store where the crime happened, and there were only two police officers on the scene.

"If this had been a store in Georgetown, there would have been all kinds of police here. I got angry and called my councilman, Jim Gra-

ham," said Mr. Barnes. "After that things started jumping. There was a prayer vigil and media coverage."

"I may have prevented another parent from going through such a horrific ordeal by helping police to get this criminal off the street," said Mr. Barnes.

Kenneth E. (Kenny) Barnes, Jr., 37, a recently married father of four, was shot to death Sept. 24, in a robbery attempt at his clothing store, Boutique U.

The senior Barnes created so much heat in his effort to find his son's killer—with the cooperation of the community—that the suspect surrendered himself to police. With the information Mr. Barnes had gathered, the police made an immediate arrest.

All of this happened within 48 hours of the murder.

"This guy had killed two other people before he got to my son. He's charged with three counts of first-degree murder. The [district attorney] told me that if others had done what I did, my son might still be alive," said Mr. Barnes. "Something is wrong with our system that breeds



Kenneth E. Barnes Jr.

such cold and remorseless young men."

Some would have relished in the arrest and let it go at that. Not Mr. Barnes. He created ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together), an organization designed to help survivors of fires develop information about suspects involved in the murder of their family or community members and to assist police in the identification, apprehension, prosecution and conviction of people who commit such tragic crimes.

The fearless work of Mr. Barnes, a third year doctoral student studying Clinical Psychology at Loyola Col-

lege, was recognized Dec. 3 by the city. Councilman Jim Graham (Ward 1) joined other community officials at a special reception for the Kenneth E. Barnes Jr. Memorial Foundation. Councilman Graham, Mr. Barnes with a Ceremonial Resolution, declaring December 3, 2001 Kenny Barnes Sr. Day in the District of Columbia.

"This honor is to recognize and commemorate Kenny Barnes Sr. for his heroic efforts and participation in assisting the police with bringing his son's murderer to justice and subsequently creating an organization named ROOT, which will assist the community and police in getting the information needed to bring suspects to justice," Councilman Graham said.

"It is the effort of citizens like Mr. Barnes that shows how effective the community can be when they work



Councilman Jim Graham.

in partnership with the police to apprehend criminals who commit heinous crimes," he said. "We want to call attention to his efforts and ask that others in the community work in tandem with law enforcement officials to get the results we need to make our communities safer."

For Mr. Barnes it was a simple decision. Some things you just have to do yourself.

HOMES OF LAST RESORT | *A Runaway Problem*



Kenneth Barnes Sr. helped investigate his son's slaying but learned only recently that the killer was supposed to be under city supervision. "It's even worse than I thought it was," he said.

Lax Oversight Endangers City—and Juveniles

west Washington, she said.

"They just dumped him back into the home," Jennings said.

Soon, Warfield was again arrested on charges of auto theft. The city sent him to Riverside Hospital for psychiatric care, and doctors put him on medication.

On June 11, 1999, nine months after arriving, Warfield ran away. Someone had spilled juice on a hospital floor, and Warfield volunteered to get a mop. Instead, he bolted out through a kitchen door.

"I didn't feel anything because the streets were on my mind," he said later.

The hospital alerted Youth Services that day. Six days later, a judge issued an arrest warrant for Warfield.

Two weeks after Warfield's escape, Jennings said, she saw her son on the street and told a nearby police officer. The officer spoke to her son and called into his police radio but ultimately let him go. "They said there was no arrest warrant, and there was nothing they could do," Jennings said.

Warfield had been on the streets for nearly two months by the time he met Ray Heidebrecht in Dupont Circle.

Heidebrecht, a 39-year-old Marine Corps civilian computer specialist, offered Warfield, then 19, a place to sleep in his Alexandria home Aug. 14. That night, Warfield later confessed, he plunged a butcher knife into Heidebrecht's neck after the man made several unwanted sexual advances. Police arrested Warfield six days later.

"I can't help but think that the justice system failed my family," Heidebrecht's brother, Glenn, told an Alexandria judge after Warfield pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. "The fact that someone as violent and demented as Mr. Warfield wasn't locked up is why my brother's dead."

Months after Warfield began serving his 60-year prison sentence in March 2000, D.C. police officers knocked on his mother's door. They said they had a warrant to arrest her son for running away from Riverside nearly a year earlier.

"I said, 'Daniel's not here. He's been arrested for murder. He's been convicted, sentenced, everything,'" Jennings said.

The officers apologized and left.

Months later, another teenager came under the supervision of Youth Services.

James Davon Hill, a stocky, 17-year-old with long braided hair and a fondness for cognac, heroin and PCP, was arrested in October 2000 on charges of possessing a firearm, court records show. He had previous arrests for peddling cocaine and stealing a car.

Superior Court Judge Thomas J. Motley decided to send Hill to a group home instead of juvenile jail, records show.

But Hill had trouble staying put. From March to May 2001, he ran away from four group homes—Gateway III, Dupont I, Gateway IV and Dupont II—the last two on the same day he arrived.

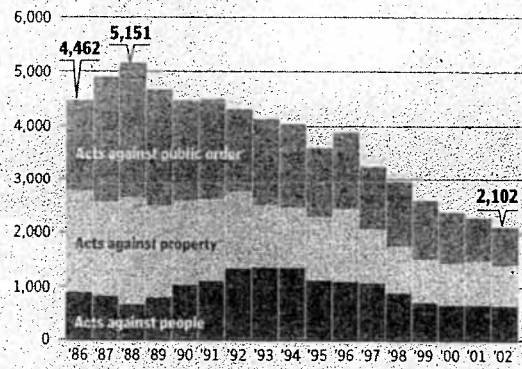
When Hill returned to the home after the first time he ran, the judge learned from a social worker that he had been shot—the bullet grazed his arm—and had tested positive for drugs. But Motley did not have the power to order Hill taken from the group homes and put in juvenile jail. Only Youth Services could do that. Under a 1980 appellate decision, Superior Court judges are not permitted to jail juveniles just for running away from group homes.

Motley wrote a note to himself March 22, 2001: "The respondent is in violation. Left group home. . . . But the court can only send him back" to Youth Services.

On May 25, Hill ran away one last time. On Aug. 22, he gunned down Eric Nelson in Northeast Washington. A month later, Hill, high on PCP, shot Kenneth Barnes Jr. in the head with a rust-colored, .45-caliber handgun during a robbery in Barnes's Northwest Washington clothing shop, Boutique U. Four days later, Hill was arrested—126 days after he had run from his last group home.

WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE
Since 1986, when the District agreed to make improvements to its juvenile justice system, juvenile arrests have plummeted and far fewer children have been sentenced to Oak Hill Youth Center, the city's juvenile jail and prison. . . .

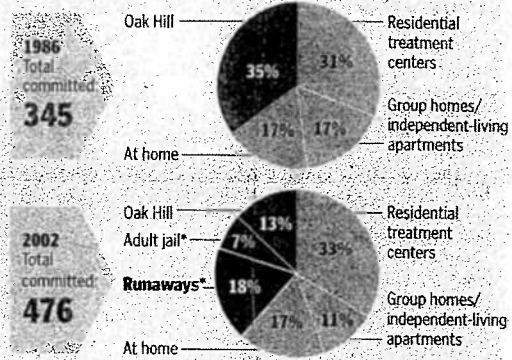
Juvenile Arrests in the District



SOURCES: D.C. Superior Court, Washington Post research

. . . But as of June 2002, 18 percent of juveniles who had been convicted of crimes and placed under city supervision had run away from the facilities housing them, mostly group homes and independent-living apartments.

Juvenile Commitments in the District



*Numbers were not compiled for runaways or juveniles in adult jail in 1986

NOTE: Figures are rounded.

THE WASHINGTON POST

How the Series Was Done

This series of articles on group homes, a psychiatric hospital and residential treatment centers for D.C. juveniles charged with or convicted of crimes and foster children is the result of a year-long investigation by two Washington Post reporters, a database editor and a researcher.

The Post obtained thousands of confidential juvenile records, court files and other documents and conducted nearly 200 interviews to piece together what happens when the District sends its wards to places of last resort. The newspaper analyzed an index of 18,077 juvenile records and compared them with thousands of pages of monitoring documents, incident reports and other records obtained from city agencies through sources and under the D.C. Freedom of Information Act. The agencies include the city's Youth Services Administration, the Child and Family Services Agency, the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health, the Child Fatality Review Committee, the D.C. police department, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Contracting and Procurement.

The newspaper also relied on records from D.C. Superior Court, U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court; the federal departments of Justice, Commerce, Defense and Health and Human Services; and government agencies in Maryland and Virginia. In two instances, the paper obtained confidentiality waivers from young men imprisoned on adult criminal charges to gain access to their juvenile files and medical records. The Post also obtained confidential government case notes, family court files, social work documents and mental health evaluations from sources. In addition to the documents, the newspaper interviewed social workers, lawyers, judges, facility employees and teenagers and their relatives.

All of the young people named in this series have been convicted of adult criminal charges, are deceased or have provided permission to publish their names.

ed—126 days after he had run from his last group home.

Kenneth Barnes Sr. helped police investigate his son's homicide and now runs a support group for families of murder victims. Barnes thought he knew every aspect of the case. But he didn't know Hill was supposed to be under city supervision at the time of the slaying until he was told by The Post.

"It's even worse than I thought it was," Barnes said. "When you have leaders who don't care, as well as citizens who don't care, this is what you get."

Turner, the Youth Services chief, said she could not comment on specific cases, citing juvenile confidentiality rules.

Hill, now 20, said in an interview from prison that he moved back in with his mother after running from the group homes. The police, he said, never came to look for him. "They figure we're stupid and we'll eventually get locked up again," Hill said.

Youth Services had no idea that Hill had been arrested.

In February, the agency issued an internal alert to find Hill. By then, he had been behind bars for 16 months, serving a 105-year sentence at Allenwood.

A Final Christmas Gift

Tyrone Christian always wanted a big, bulky Eddie Bauer jacket. But his mother worried. Christi Johnson, a no-nonsense D.C. Housing Authority police officer, knew that kids were being killed for their brand-name coats and sneakers. She also knew her son was doing well. He was working as a lifeguard at a swimming pool in Anacostia and pursuing his dream of becoming a firefighter. As a little boy, he had surrounded himself with Tonka toy firetrucks. He became more determined when his aunt and uncle perished in a house fire a few years later.

So Johnson told her son she would buy him the jacket if he improved his grades and his behavior at school. The incentive began to work, and Johnson started to save up from her job. She found the jacket at a Georgetown store, on sale for \$199. She presented it to her son the day after Christmas 2000. Nearly everywhere he went, Tyrone wore the green down jacket, with the Eddie Bauer logo emblazoned on the back.

Paul Coleman, a 17-year-old who liked to wear his hair in dreadlocks, wanted an Eddie Bauer jacket, too.

He had been charged with possessing a

BB gun and indecent exposure in 1998, according to confidential court files. In December 2000, after Coleman violated his juvenile probation, he came under the custody and supervision of Youth Services. First, he was sent to a treatment center in Maryland for his marijuana habit. Then, on April 16, 2001, he went to live in the Gateway IV group home. On May 11, the home reported Coleman missing. He eventually returned, but on June 28, the home reported him missing a second time. Again, he returned. The night of Aug. 19, he ran away and never came back.

Coleman later explained that his judge, Zimora M. Mitchell-Rankin, had threatened to lock him up at Oak Hill if his drug tests continued to turn up positive. "My urines were dirty," he said. "I didn't want to go back in front of her."

Mitchell-Rankin declined to discuss the case.

Coleman had been gone for nearly two months by the time he spotted Christian on the street in October 2001. Coleman watched the boy leave his home on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SW and walk across the street to a bus stop.

Coleman chased Christian to the front door of his building, shot him once through the heart and fled without taking the jacket.

Christian's mother closely followed Coleman's case. She watched as jurors pronounced Coleman guilty. He received 40 years.

Johnson had to move after the murder. She couldn't stand to stay in the Southwest building. During a recent interview in her new apartment in Anacostia, she sat on a black vinyl sofa, wearing a black dress and a white blouse, on her lap a shoe box full of snapshots from her son's childhood.

By the time the trial concluded in January, Johnson thought she knew everything about the crime. But she was unaware that Coleman was supposed to be under the city's custody at the time of the murder until she was told by The Post.

"Whoever was in charge of him, if they did their job, my son would still be alive," Johnson said.

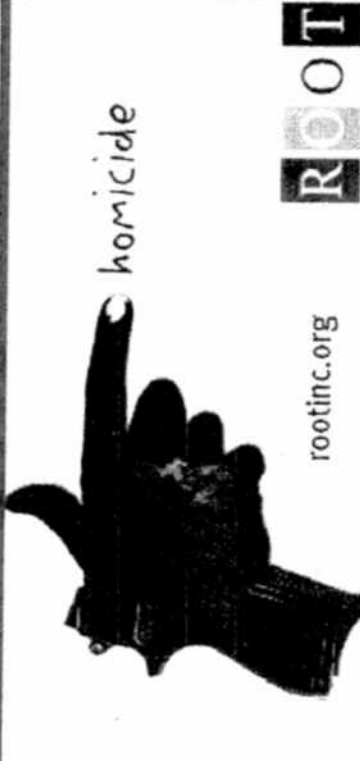
Coleman said from the D.C. jail that he didn't believe anyone from the city was trying to find him. After all, he was living with his brother, he said, and his mother told him the police never called her.

"As far as I know," Coleman said, "they never came."

Database editor Sarah Cohen and Metro researcher Bobbye Pratt contributed to this report.


ROOT

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS TOGETHER
National Tour



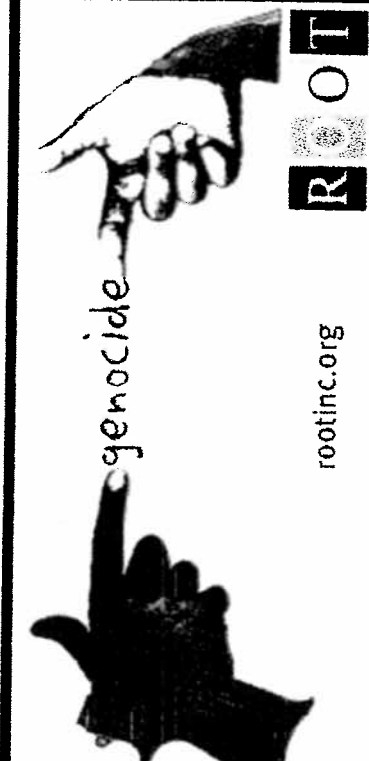

homicide

rootinc.org




suicide

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genocide

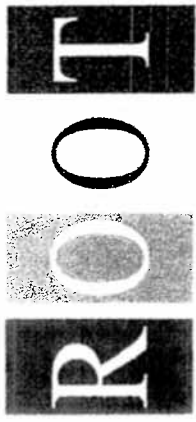
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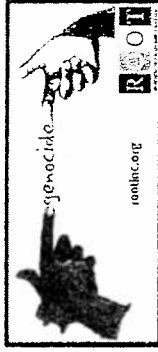
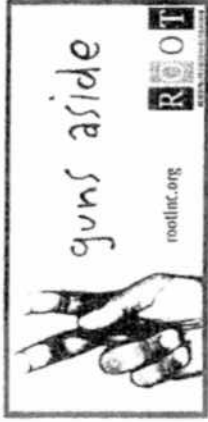
guns aside

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REACHING OUT to OTHERS TOGETHER
National Tour



The Tour

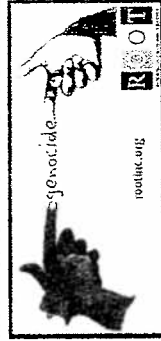
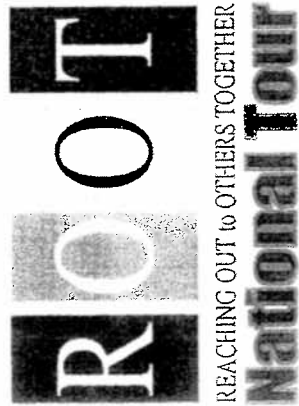
The National "Guns Aside" Tour is a public awareness campaign that utilizes subliminal imagery to combat the negative impact of the systemic and endemic apathy exhibited towards gun violence. The campaign is based on research that shows an effective gun violence prevention effort must be: age-appropriate, culturally competent, targeted to age groups most likely to commit gun violence, and made a priority, gaining the support and participation of parents and all sectors of the community.

The National "Guns Aside" Tour is designed to educate, inform, and evoke action within youth via the extensive multi-media awareness campaign - HOMICIDE; SUICIDE; GENOCIDE - GUNS ASIDE. It's message heightens the consciousness of schools and communities with compelling emotional hard-hitting graphical elements.

The Tour takes a proactive approach to reducing levels of gun violence and senseless homicides currently taking place in cities throughout the United States of America.

The National "Guns Aside" Campaign aims to reduce gun violence amongst the youth population in grades 5-12, and ages 10-24, from a public health perspective via an advocacy, awareness, and education campaign. Consciousness of the severity of gun violence within communities and schools will be heightened as a result of Guns Aside Rallies. The Rallies will introduce the Guns Aside programs into the schools and communities. During the Rallies, Guns Aside surveys, PSAs, participant testimonials, and subliminal messaging will be utilized to engage the audience. Celebrity guests, entertainment and musical performances are also incorporated to help spread the "Guns Aside" message. The Rallies will end with all participants taking the Guns Aside Pledge. Each Rally will be followed up with a series of workshops presented at a minimum of two times per week to various schools, youth groups, and youth civic organizations.

During the National "Guns Aside" Tour, items consisting of posters, print ads, t-shirts, drawstring backpacks, hats, lanyards, and wristbands will be given to the youth. The items will be and displayed in participating schools to reemphasize the *Guns Aside* campaign message. There will also be printed ads for transit systems, bill boards, and a Wrapped Tour Bus and SUV with the *Guns Aside* slogan, to help spread the message. A Guns Aside Community In Action) discount card will be distributed to all participants within the program.



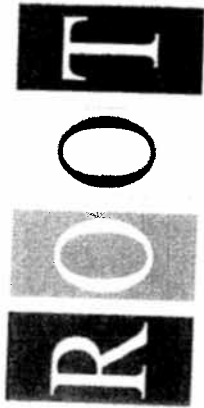
The Campaign

"I remember fighting the tears as my cousin Herman Gatewood gave a touching eulogy. His words moved me to action, and I next found myself creating a collage called, Cousin (Cousin now in the collection of the Paul R. Jones Collection at the University of Delaware). Much later while attending class (Howard University, where he earned a BFA) I was given an assignment by Starmanda Bullock, PhD. that would change my life forever. She asked the class to come up with an advertising campaign for a non-profit. That same campaign which started as commentary then a class project traveled with me as I built a career as an artist, graphic designer's, illustrator and advertising art director when I stumbled across a grant by Sappi Papers, a paper manufacturer. The *Ideas That Matter* Grant awards winning recipients with money to implement creative ideas for non-profits with the understanding that the designers work is pro-bono. I approached several groups asking them to accept my creative gift before Nizam Ali, a friend since kindergarten introduced me to an amazing organization run by an amazing man Kenny Barnes, Sr. The rest you might say is history or maybe the **FUTURE**"

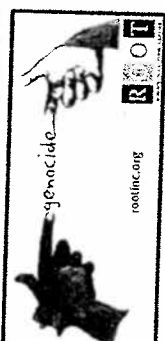
Nationally, we face a disturbing increase in violent crimes committed by American juveniles, as well as an alarming rise in abuse, neglect, and gun violence perpetuated against this country's youth. Locally, the problems of youth homicides in the District of Columbia are systemic. All systems; family, education and government have not met the needs of the victims of homicides and the needs of youth in our community who do not value the life of another human being. We have to move from the rhetoric generated after a horrific event and develop a comprehensive strategy that supports the victims of homicide, recognizes the trauma of youth affected by gun violence and homicide, and encourages youth to set the *Guns Aside*. The *Guns Aside* program targets at-risk youth through a multi-media program aimed at reducing the level of youth homicides. Our model is based on prevention research which has found that: *"An effective gun violence prevention program will be age-appropriate, target the age groups most likely to commit gun violence, and make the support and participation of parents and all sectors of the community a priority."*

Guns Aside is part of multi-disciplinary approach being implemented by Reaching Out to Others Together (ROOT) Inc. that builds on relationships with business, law enforcement and local government agencies. This program starts at the community level where effective interventions can produce results. Some of the partners in this effort include the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, DC Department of Health, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Howard University School of Medicine, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, YMCA of Washington, graduate students from the Howard Hospital Trauma Department/Emergency Room, and the Student National Medical Association.

Guns Aside was conceptualized, designed and illustrated by Gary Bellamy (co-Creative Director of Twenty First Century Group) as a result of his own personal tragedy as a victim of gun violence in Washington, DC. Gary's cousin Tommy Moran was murdered in South West Washington, DC as the apparent victim of a robbery gone wrong. Tommy was slain while using a pay phone as his young daughter slept in his car. Gary looked up to his big cousin and he like, other family members, took the loss hard. "I'm not wealthy, so I gave the only gift I could. I just hoped it would be enough," says Gary after explaining how he and his work for ROOT came to fruition.



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS TOGETHER
National Tour



The Cause

ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together) Inc. seeks to be a nationally recognized institution with expertise in addressing the ROOT causes of the systemic apathy that fosters a culture of violence in our communities today. Root implements multimodal solutions that ensure individuals, families and communities stop enduring the tragedy of homicides by gun violence.

Mission Statement: ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together) Inc. is committed to advocacy and intervention on behalf of homicide victims and their families. Our mission is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach to reducing homicides and the senseless violence occurring in our cities.

Form of Ownership: Nonprofit Organization 501(c)(3)

History: While working towards his doctoral degree at Loyola College in Maryland, Kenneth Barnes, Sr., the first and the only African/American male, as well as being the oldest student in the program, experienced tragedy of the worst kind. His son, Kenny, Jr. was murdered on September 24, 2001.

Through neighborhood sources, Mr. Barnes learned who the perpetrator was and turned the information over to the police. It was later discovered that, not only was the killer wanted by the police, he had killed at least two other individuals of which the authorities were aware. Consequently, the murderer, a 17 year old youth, was apprehended two days after the murder of his son.

Since that time, Mr. Barnes helped to establish ROOT - Reaching Out to Others Together - a non-profit organization incorporated in November of 2002. It is his firm contention that only because of the efforts of a community working together to include the police, the community at large, the media, the business community, and himself, was the killer so swiftly apprehended.

Motto: "To many lives are being lost, too many victims injured, and too many communities are being held hostage to this systemic and endemic tide of violence. As a government, and as a community, we must begin to offer proactive, rather than reactive alternatives."

M I C H I G A N

Carl Levin
UNITED STATES SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2006

Contact: Press Office
Phone: 202.228.3685

Make Gun Violence Prevention a Priority

In a speech to the Economic Club of Detroit in May 1999, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., committed to speak on the issue of gun crimes each week that the Senate is in session. This is the 226th week he has continued to live up to his pledge; his remarks follow:

Mr. President, last month was declared "Guns Aside Month" by the D.C. City Council in honor of the grass-roots campaign known by the same name. The Guns Aside campaign is run by a D.C. community organization named Reaching Out to Others Together, or ROOT.

Washington, D.C. resident Kenneth Barnes established ROOT after his son was shot to death in 2001. According to its website, ROOT is "committed to advocacy, education, and intervention on behalf of individuals and families who have been victimized by homicides. Its mission is to bring visibility and focus community and organizational resources on these homicides on behalf of families, while addressing the root causes of the systemic apathy that fosters a culture of violence in our communities today."

Among other things, Kenneth Barnes and other ROOT members work with the D.C. police and local and national organizations to help address the needs of families who have been affected by gun violence and homicide. ROOT also works with community organizations to develop violence prevention strategies and better coordinate their efforts.

ROOT's Guns Aside campaign began in September 2004 as a multimedia outreach program targeted at young people. As part of the campaign, ROOT members have visited schools and held workshops and mentoring programs while working to build cooperative relationships with law enforcement personnel, businesses, and local

government officials. Kenneth Barnes and ROOT recently announced plans to expand the Guns Aside program to the top 15 cities affected by gun violence around the country.

Ironically, September 29, 2004 marked not only the start of the Guns Aside campaign, but also the passage of the misnamed "District of Columbia Personal Protection Act" by the House of Representatives. Among other things, that legislation would repeal local laws in Washington, D.C. that ban the sale and possession of unregistered firearms, require firearm registration, impose common sense safe storage requirements, and ban semiautomatic weapons.

The Senate did not make the mistake of passing that legislation during the 108th Congress. However, the bill was reintroduced last year and the National Rifle Association has labeled it a "top legislative priority" for this year.

I hope that the House and Senate Republican Congressional leadership will reward the work of organizations like ROOT and reject the efforts of NRA lobbyists. We should respect the will of the people of Washington, D.C. with regard to local gun safety laws and work to support the efforts of anti-gun violence organizations around the country by passing common sense gun safety legislation.