

Media Advisory

What:

Tavis Smiley, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, will present a conversation with a multidisciplinary panel of local and national experts, to examine the incontrovertible relationship of poverty and crime in Chicago as a direct consequence of a failed promise to education.

The panel will examine, and seek creative solutions to the widening economic and social chasm that prevents the city from claiming equitable education and safe passage for its youth, regardless of their zip code.

Who:

- ❖ Roseanna Ander, Founding Executive Director, Crime Lab and Education Lab; Senior Director, Urban Labs at the University of Chicago
- ❖ Keisha Farmer-Smith, PhD, Director of Program Outcomes and Impact Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago
- ❖ Jahmal Cole, Founder, My Block, My Hood, My City
- ❖ Adam M. Alonso, Executive Director, BUILD Chicago

When:

Saturday, September 12, 2015
12:00pm: Press Opportunity
1:00pm - 2:30pm: Town Hall Discussion
Check-in begins at 12:00 p.m.

Where:

James R. Jordan Boys & Girls Club and Chicago Bulls Family Life Center
2102 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60612
Website: <http://jamesrjordan.bgcc.org/>

Why:

It's unquestionable that the escalating rate of violence in Chicago continues to have a detrimental impact on the academic performance of children. Statistics show that Chicago has more shootings than New York and L.A. combined. As shootings rose by about forty percent during the first three months of this year. To date, there have been 355 shootings, compared with 253 through all of March 2014.



Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and lays the groundwork for sustained economic growth. A lack of quality education is the foundation for a continued cycle of poverty by making it more difficult for low-income children to lift themselves and future generations out of poverty and income insecurity. The statistics paint a grim outlook for dropouts. They are twice as likely to live in poverty, three times more likely to be unemployed and eight times more likely to be in jail or prison than graduates.

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