

Westchester County Board of Legislators
COMMITTEE OF GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY
Minutes: October 23, 2007

COMMITTEE ON GCED

MEMBERS: **Chair:** Bernice Spreckman; Legislators: Jose Alvarado, Lois Bronz, William Burton, Ken Jenkins and Vito Pinto.

ATTENDANCE: **STAFF:** RVinci, NRentz. **OTHER:** Marlene Furtick, Julie Jones, Tiffany Lattimer, Aro Edwards, Liz Mark, Raymond Tribble, Jim Bostic and Luther Garrison.

Meeting called to order at 10:15 pm.

Dr. Divine Pryor, Deputy Executive Director of the Center for Nu Leadership on Urban Solutions at City University, Medgar Evers College, presented a multi-faceted approach to understanding gangs and youth violence.

Some of the discussion:

Dr. Pryor speaks about how jail has been the only solution to dealing with juvenile offenders and various stereotypes; women are the fastest growing population, the loss of rights caused by a criminal conviction, and about the lack of a comprehensive plan for discharge. He also give statistics such as 70% of those who serve a jail sentence go back to jail, they are locked in a cycle.

Dr. Pryor speaks about the gang leaders. They are very smart, have leadership qualities and want respect. By challenging them we can transform them. Potential employers can receive state and federal incentives for employing those who have served time in jail. As a community we need to be organized, communicate and have a discharge plan (1 year prior to release from jail) for job skills, training, development, etc.

Minutes for 9/25/07 passed; motion made by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Pinto.

Minutes for 10/16/07 passed; motion made by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Spreckman.

Meeting ended at 11:50 am. Motion made by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Burton.

-AUDIO MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST-