



Monica R. Martinez
Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District
55 2nd Avenue Suite 7
Brentwood, NY 11717
(P) 631-853-3700 (F) 631-853-3568

CONTACT: monica.martinez@suffolkcountyny.gov
lisa.pinkard@suffolkcountyny.gov
luis.montes-brito@suffolkcountyny.gov

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Legislator Martinez Leads the Fight against Gun and Gang Violence in Central Islip

Legislator Monica R. Martinez held a youth summit in collaboration with the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council (HHSYC) and Power 105.1 at Central Islip High School on July 18, 2014 to fight gun and gang violence among our youth in the 9th Legislative District.

The Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, under the direction of Charles and Randy Fisher, led their 3rd annual "Hip-Hop against Gun & Gang Violence Campaign" and "Solution Summit" in Central Islip. The HHSYC has committed to educating our youth through Hip-Hop. The HHSYC allows youth to listen to original Hip-Hop music and compare it to *modern* day Hip-Hop. Their main focus is to educate youth that the Hip-Hop today, distorts their way of thinking and negatively impacts their overall values.

Students from the Central Islip School District were given the opportunity to share their solutions with Legislator Martinez on how to combat gun and gang violence among their peers. Many students came forward and shared their ideas. The solutions shared among the young men and women included; having the school district provide more after-school programs and expanding their sport's program. Students also asked for a greater support system both at home and in the public schools.

Students shared their need to see the Central Islip Recreation Center renovated and that it should include a new indoor basketball court. Many students stated they were fearful of playing on the outside basketball court. Moreover, they expressed a desire for a studio where they could express themselves through art, music, poetry, and dance.

"I am so proud of every single one of you who came forward and shared your ideas with me," stated Legislator Martinez. "It is important to hear from you. As your legislator, I will work with all levels of government to improve the life of the youth not only in the 9th Legislative District but here in Suffolk County. I may not know you personally but my passion as an educator is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the youth," concluded Legislator Martinez.



(Photo: Charles and Randy Fischer, Legislator Martinez, Roderick Pearson, Power 105.1 DJ & Officer Groce)



(Photo: Randy Fischer and Legislator Martinez with CI Student)