



# DO THE RIGHT THING OF MIAMI, INC.

c/o CITY OF MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MIAMI SCHOOL VIOLENCE ISSUE TAKES CENTER STAGE... ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS TO TAKE PLEDGE AGAINST VIOLENCE** **Giant 4'X8' Pledge Card Bearing Students' Signatures Will Be Sent to White House**

MIAMI, FL – SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 – In a city reeling from yet another act of school violence, approximately 1,000 City of Miami students will pledge a school year without violence at a special, anti-violence youth rally Friday, September 18, 2009 at the FIU Sports Arena, 1180 SW 113 Avenue from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The "Back Without A Bang" Youth Rally Against Violence was created by the Do The Right Thing Program to respond to the every increasing, national problem of school violence. With the assistance of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department and the Miami-Dade County Violence Intervention Program, fifth grade students from 10 City of Miami elementary schools were specially selected to participate in reciting a unique "Victory Against Violence" pledge led by **Miami Police Chief John Timoney**. Students will be wearing "I Took the Pledge" t-shirts, color-coded by school and will receive a miniature, laminated copy of the pledge (see pledge card below).

Additionally, several schools will be performing their own anti-violence presentations including poems, raps and/or other expressions against violence.

The program will also include motivational speeches, a mini-rap concert with a positive message and an anti-drug performance. **At the conclusion of the program, all students will be asked to sign a giant, 4 foot X 8 foot copy of the pledge which will be sent to The White House.**

## **"BACK WITHOUT A BANG" SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Welcome by DTRT Ex. Dir. Jodi Atkison
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	"Victory Against Violence" Pledge w/ Chief Timoney
10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Community Crusaders Against Drugs
10:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Motivational Speaker Mr. Hardge
11:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Double Threat rap group
11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	School anti-violence presentations
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch/students sign giant pledge card

Event emcee is Miami Police Lieutenant Joseph Schillaci, star of the A&E reality series, First 48.

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