



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods Kicks Off its 2008 Rhyme Against Crime Rap  
Contest for High School and Middle School Students**

**All lyrics must have an anti-gun and gang violence message**

**Top Ten will head to the recording studio**

(Indianapolis, IN)---An innovative approach to fighting crime aimed at reaching young people and helping them to spread an anti-gun and gang violence message while working with a music style they love was kicked off today at The Indianapolis Metropolitan School. Called *Rhyme Against Crime*, the six-week long rap contest will accept entries as long as they focus on an anti-gun and gang violence message. Ten finalists from Marion County high schools and middle schools will get to record their lyrics to beats at a professional studio and perform live this summer at the Indianapolis Black Expo Summer Celebration.

"We must all take a stand against gun and gang violence," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie Conour. "It's only March and we already have 24 homicides, 19 of them by gunfire. In addition, we have had 176 crimes where a gun has been involved and six of our homicide victims have been under 20 years of age. We think young people in Marion County can talk peer-to-peer about making smart choices instead of using a gun or joining a gang to settle disputes."

**Two Top Ten finalists will also receive a \$750 scholarship presented by Bright House Networks** and one finalist will have the opportunity to produce a music video.

All entries must be submitted with a completed entry form along with the typed lyrics of an original rap song and a cassette tape or CD of the student rapping (No beats allowed, all entries must be submitted a cappella).

Students can download entry forms from two sites:

- Online at [www.psnindiana.org](http://www.psnindiana.org) or
- **Bright House Networks website** <http://indiana.mybrighthouse.com/>

Students can also pick up and drop off an entry at the following Marion County Community Centers

- John H. Boner Center, 2236 E 10<sup>th</sup> St.
- Forest Manor Multi-Service Center, 5603 E 38<sup>th</sup> St.
- Christamore House, 504 Tremont St.
- Community Alliance Far Eastside, 8902 E 38<sup>th</sup> St.
- Concord Community Center, 1310 S. Meridian St.
- Hawthorn Community Center, 2440 W. Ohio St.
- Bethel Park, 2850 Bethel Ave.
- Reach for Youth, 3505 Washington Blvd.

Or they can be mailed to: Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods,  
3505 Washington Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

The deadline for entering is May 1, 2008.

A panel of judges will read and listen to the lyrics and choose a list of the Top Ten finalists.

In addition to **Bright House Networks**, the following community organizations are serving as partners in the *Rhyme Against Crime* Contest:

- Pathway to the Future Learning Center
- Peace Learning Center
- Hip Hop Congress Indy
- Forest Manor Multi Service Center
- Felege Hiywot Center
- Peace in the Streets
- The Indianapolis Metropolitan School