



## For Immediate Release

Contacts: Jackie Dilworth  
Director of Communications  
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington  
(202) 384-6818; [Jackie.Dilworth@ymcadc.org](mailto:Jackie.Dilworth@ymcadc.org)

Ingrid Harrison  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Office of Council Member Ingrid M. Turner  
(301) 952-3094; [isharrison@co.pg.md.us](mailto:isharrison@co.pg.md.us)

## **TEACHING KIDS TO BE MORE THAN BYSTANDERS TO BULLYING**

*Prince George's Co. Council Member Turner, the Y and others teach 250 students how to identify bullying and appreciate diversity*

[WASHINGTON, DC, September 20, 2012] – Every day, kids see bullying. Whether it's name calling, threats, spreading rumors, or hitting, bullying is a toxic behavior that has an enduring effect on everyone involved. October is National Bullying Prevention Month, but Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner and the Y are getting an early start. This Saturday, they are convening a summit at Benjamin Tasker Middle School to teach middle and high school students the effects of bullying, how to identify and respond to it, valuing others differences, as well as lessons on self-esteem. The more students know about bullying, the more they can do to stop it.

"Our children deserve to go to school in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning," urges Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner. "We will provide students and their parents with the tools necessary to expose and appropriately confront all types of bullying behavior. Coming together as a community to directly address this issue, we can effectively teach our young people that bullying is harmful and must stop."

If unresolved, bullying can lead to devastating outcomes including depression, anxiety, substance use, and truancy. By empowering kids to take a stand, we can bring healing to individuals, families, schools and communities. The summit features a keynote from Henry "Discombobulating" Jones, DC Boxing Hall of Fame Ring Announcer and inspirational speaker; workshops to bring more awareness and prevention to bullying; a panel discussion with representatives from government agencies, law enforcement, schools, and community-based organizations; entertainment from KeyMace, a singer with a powerful campaign against bullying; and students who will address their peers on bullying prevention.

The summit is free and all Prince George's County middle and high school students are invited and encouraged to attend. To attend, please register at [stopthemadness2012.eventbrite.com](http://stopthemadness2012.eventbrite.com).

"The YMCA offers a safe haven for the community, and we have absolutely no tolerance for bullying in any of our facilities or youth programs" shares Janice Williams, Senior VP of Program Development for the YMCA of Metro. Washington. "Acceptance of diversity and respect for others is deeply rooted in the Y as part of our core values. We are honored to be a part of this summit and help even more kids understand appropriate ways of interacting."

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### **About Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner**

Ingrid M. Turner, Esquire (D) is currently serving her second term on the Prince George's County Council representing District 4. A trailblazer, Council Member Turner was first elected to the County Council in November 2006 as the first African American elected to the District 4, County Council seat. In 2011, Ms. Turner was unanimously elected to serve as the Prince George's County Council Chair and in 2012 she was elected as the first African American female to serve as President of the Maryland Association of Counties. Ms. Turner has held a variety of leadership roles with both civic and professional organizations, and has been recognized with many awards and honors.

### **About the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We've been connecting and supporting men, women and children in Greater Washington for 160 years – regardless of age, income or background. Anchored in Washington, DC, southern MD, and northern VA, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington creates a positive difference in the lives of more than 200,000 people each year through its 17 branches and program centers. We have the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. For more information, visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/ymcadc](https://www.facebook.com/ymcadc).