

# ANTI-VIOLENCE AND PEACE INITIATIVE

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**“In memory of our beloved graduate and student – David Payne”**

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTER (ECC)**

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPIRITUALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM (CSAP)**



# PROCESS

- ▶ **TOWN HALL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 2012 ON BOTH CAMPUSES AND ON ST. JOHN**
- ▶ **OVER 40 RECOMMENDATIONS WERE PROVIDED**
- ▶ **MOST RECOMMENDATIONS FELL IN ONE OF FOUR BROAD CATEGORIES: ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, POLICY, AND RESEARCH**
- ▶ **A TASK FORCE WAS CONVENED TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSE “NEXT STEPS”**
- ▶ **THE TASK FORCE MET IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AND DEVELOPED RECOMMENDATIONS**



# TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- ▶ OFFICER DAVID CANNONIER
- ▶ JUDGE JAMES CARROLL III
- ▶ MS. DARA COOPER
- ▶ DR. HALDANE DAVIES
- ▶ DR. ASHA DEGANNES
- ▶ DR. DAVID HALL
- ▶ MS. IRENE HATCHETT-SEALEY
- ▶ MR. STEVIE HENRY
- ▶ DR. FRANK MILLS
- ▶ MS. SHARI WILTSHIRE



# PURPOSE OF THE AVPI

- ▶ **TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES, INSIGHTS AND EXPERTISE OF THE UNIVERSITY TO COMBAT THE EXISTENCE AND INCREASE OF VIOLENCE IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**
- ▶ **TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE ENTITIES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO CURTAIL VIOLENCE**
- ▶ **TO PROMOTE PEACE, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION STRATEGIES AND PERSPECTIVES THROUGHOUT THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**



# FOCUS AREAS

- ▶ **RESEARCH**
- ▶ **POLICY**
- ▶ **OUTREACH**
- ▶ **ADVOCACY**



# RESEARCH

- ▶ **CONDUCT RESEARCH TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GANGS AND THE GANG CULTURE**
- ▶ **RESEARCH THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE**
- ▶ **CONDUCT RESEARCH ON FAMILY VIOLENCE AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY PATTERNS AND THE PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE**
- ▶ **CONDUCT RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION (*VIRTUES PROJECT*)**



# POLICY

- ▶ **PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES THAT WILL REQUIRE THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA ON VIOLENCE, CRIME, EDUCATION, AND RELATED VARIABLES FOR JUVENILES AND YOUNG ADULTS**
- ▶ **DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT CREATE STRONGER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE COURT SYSTEM AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
- ▶ **IDENTIFY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COUNSELING, ANGER MANAGEMENT TRAINING, DRUG REHABILITATION AND THE REINSTATEMENT OF TRUANCY POLICIES**
- ▶ **DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE DROPOUT RATE**



# OUTREACH

- ▶ **CREATE A COLLABORATIVE OF ALL AGENCIES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF THOSE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**
- ▶ **WORK TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE (EXPANSION OF JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, SUMMER BRIDGE, UNIVERSITY BOUND, ETC.)**
- ▶ **HAVE OTHERS ON THE TASK FORCE FROM THE ANTI-GANG COMMUNITY**
- ▶ **FOCUS GROUP WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE OR ENGAGED IN GANG ACTIVITY**
- ▶ **DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PARENTING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION OF FAMILIES**





# ADVOCACY

- **HELP DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MARATHON RUN TO “TAKE BACK THE COMMUNITY”**
- **INSTITUTIONALIZE RED RIBBON WEEK ON BOTH CAMPUSES**
- **PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EXISTING STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS AND INITIATIVES THAT FOCUS ON POSITIVE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**
- **GET THE MESSAGE OUT THROUGH A CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE THAT INCLUDES, PSAs, POSTERS, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES** (*THE MESSAGES SHOULD NOT ONLY BE ABOUT THE DANGERS, BUT ALSO ABOUT SOLUTIONS ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY*)



# INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- ▶ **THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AND PEACE INITIATIVE (AVPI) WILL BE HOUSED IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTER (ECC)**
- ▶ **AVPI WILL BE CO-SPONSORED BY ECC AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPIRITUALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM (CSAP)**
- ▶ **FUNDING FOR AVIP WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR TWO YEARS AT \$50,000 PER YEAR**
- ▶ **THE PART-TIME DIRECTOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING WITH INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT TO SECURE ON-GOING FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM**
- ▶ **AN ADVISORY BOARD WILL BE CREATED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT**

