

MAYOR ROBERT SULLIVAN HOSTS “YOUTH CHAMPIONS DAY”

BROCKTON, MA – In collaboration with the Brockton Police Department, Mayor Robert Sullivan presents “Mayor Sullivan Youth Champions Day.”

The event provides a fun and supportive environment for over 200 Brockton youth who are at risk of joining gangs and perpetuating violence amongst their peers.

“It is an absolute honor to collaborate with the Brockton Police Department and all the partners of the Shannon initiative in Brockton on this event for at-risk youth in our community,” said Mayor Robert Sullivan. “These youth find themselves in precarious situations and among dangerous individuals through no fault of their own. Our duty as citizens of this community is to do everything in our power to steer our youth away from these harmful scenarios and provide positive pathways to success.”

All activities and opportunities for connection provided at Youth Champions Day are possible because of funding from the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon).

The youth in attendance have the opportunity to engage in creative activities such as decorating ceramic mugs, making decorative lapel buttons, creating san art and Crayola Magic sculptures, and more.

“Protecting our city’s youth and keeping them away from gangs is a top priority for BPD,” said Brockton Police Department Grant Coordinator Michelle St. James.” The Shannon Community Safety Initiative allows us to work with some of our community’s outstanding non-profits to provide positive youth development services to the kids and emerging adults at risk for gang involvement. With these funds, our partners can intervene with these youth to provide opportunities and mentorship, and we could not be more grateful.”

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Shannon initiative is similar to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Partners of the Shannon initiative in Brockton are the Office of Mayor Robert F. Sullivan, 24 Hr. Power Inc., Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South, Brockton Christian Mentoring Initiative, Brockton Police Department, Health Imperatives, Kids Konnect, Luminosity Behavioral Services, Inc, MassHire/YouthWorks, Safe Corners, and Strategies for Youth.

"Our Shannon Grant partnership with the Brockton Police Department has been absolutely critical in our ability to bring high-quality mentoring programs aimed at violence prevention through positive youth development," said Vice President & Chief Advancement Officer of Boys and Girls Club Monica Lombardo. "These funds provide our Brockton Clubhouse members with access to caring mentors, academic support, resources to promote healthy social-emotional development, opportunities for self-discovery, and the skills they need to lead great futures beyond high school and Club membership. We are truly grateful for our partnerships with BPD and other Shannon projects across Brockton through which we can more fully leverage life-changing programs and resources for the kids in our community who are most in need of help and hope."

In addition to the youth programming, the Brockton Police Department will host its annual 'Buckle Up for Life' (BUFL) event. Through collaboration with Copeland Toyota, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Toyota Motors, BPD has distributed over 150 car seats to families in the last year. At this appointment-only event, caregivers will receive education on the importance of child passenger safety, a safety inspection, and a BUFL-supplied car seat installed by BPD. Interested caregivers should schedule an appointment by contacting the BPD Child Passenger Safety program at CarSeatLinkUp@brocktonpolice.com or 508-897-5208. BPD Acting Police Chief Brenda Perez spearheads this initiative.

"Taking these proactive steps of educating parents on child passenger safety and providing car seats to families who need them are just two of the many ways BPD interacts with the community and works to keep everyone safe," said Acting Chief Lieutenant Brenda Perez. "We are lucky to have this grant from Buckle Up for Life to help us link our smallest, most vulnerable citizens to lifesaving services."

Youth Champions Day and Buckle Up for Life take place **Monday, April 18th, at City Hall Plaza. Youth Champions Day is from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, and the 'Buckle Up for Life' event is from 9 am - 2 pm.**