

News from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Somerset County Sheriff Supports Victory Over Violence Initiative

During the recent Victory Over Violence Leadership Summit in Franklin, Somerset County Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano offered the services of the Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers (SRO), who work with youth at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School and the Alternative school.

"As a community, we are all concerned about youth violence and want to find ways to help promote positive behavior among young people," said Sheriff Provenzano. "Since we started the School Resource Program in 2003, our officers have helped kids get on the right track and have even helped some of them get into college."

School Resource Officers Ahmed Mackey and Mark Scalise interact with students in the hallways, class rooms and at one-on-one counseling sessions. SRO programs include Gang Resistance Education and Training sessions and a class that covers different aspects of the law, including drunken driving, date-rape drugs and how to be a good witness.

In addition, Sheriff Provenzano extended the services of the Somerset County Gang & Terrorism Intelligence Unit to conduct gang awareness presentations in Franklin neighborhoods and schools. The Somerset County Sheriff's Office also plans to work in cooperation with the Franklin Township Police Department.

The Victory Over Violence Leadership Summit was held Sept. 8 at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Franklin, hosted by the church's pastor, the Rev. DeForest B. Soaries Jr. New Jersey Attorney General Anne Miligram, clergy, local officials, law enforcement officers, members of the community and youth leaders attended the summit to address youth violence and discuss solutions.

The summit was held after the deaths of Franklin residents Keenan Sanders, 20, and Ammar Simmons, 18, and the execution-style killings of three college students in a Newark schoolyard. Sanders was stabbed to death July 12 on Churchill Avenue. Simmons died July 15 after being shot at the Little League complex on DeKalb Street.

For more information about county law enforcement programs, contact Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano at (908) 231-7140.

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