

Community Unity

March 31, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We write to you out of concern for the welfare of the youth in our care and for the future — our children's future and that of our community. As you may know, in the past few months there have been a few visible instances of drug-related activity in our community that have involved young adults and high school-aged students.

We must ask ourselves how and why this is happening; we must allow the current societal issues to serve as a wake-up call for our tight-knit community. We must rally with one another to send a strong message by pledging that:

- We will not tolerate criminal activity;
- We will not look the other way regarding drug use and underage drinking;
- We will align community efforts and resources to protect our children now and preserve their future;
- We will have difficult conversations with our children to establish expectations for a drug-free life;
- We will set an example and lead healthy lifestyles;
- We will report all suspicious activities to the police department;
- We will learn the signs of an alcohol/drug problem and will reach out to someone who may need assistance; and
- We will stand up to this unhealthy, criminal activity by sending the message that this behavior will not be tolerated in our village.

In our schools and community, we are dedicated to the success and well-being of each of our students. Together we will continue to provide targeted messaging and awareness related to healthy lifestyles and responsible decision-making, plus access to support for our students and their families through the challenges of substance use.

We as Irvington community leaders are your partners. We will continue to collaborate using resources in our schools and through iASK-CAB and the Irvington Police Department in order to protect our children and to preserve their futures.

Please join us in making the pledges above. Let's send the message now:

Drug use and criminal activity will not be tolerated in our Village.

#notinIRV

Make the pledge, spread the word, speak up and protect our children.

Following is a link to high-quality resources about alcohol and drug use/education and prevention that all community members would benefit from reviewing: <http://www.drugfree.org/ready-with-answers>

For every child, every day, we are united.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kris Harrison, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Brian Smith, Irvington Mayor

Ms. Catherine Palmieri, Board of Education President

Chief Michael Cerone, Irvington Chief of Police

Mr. Joe Archino, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Tanya Hunt and Ms. Allyson Felix, iASK-CAB Co-chairs

The iASK-CAB, Irvington About Safe Kids-Community Advisory Board

