



Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

1625 K Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC, 20006
Ph: (202) 518-6500; toll-free (866) 518-1CNE (1263); Fx: (202) 588-0314
web: www.cneonline.org; email: info@cneonline.org



Contacts:

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Sam Johnson (478) 960-2088

CNE: Heather Humphries (202) 518-6500

April 11, 2006

Meetings Will Focus on Violence in Unionville

A community partnership committed to reducing crime in the Unionville neighborhood of Macon, Georgia, will hold a series of intensive all-day workshops April 12 to explore solutions to the increasing problem of violence in the community. The sessions will be led by Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. Woodson and his organization have led an initiative that has been reducing youth violence in urban high crime sites across the country. Known as the Violence-Free Zone initiative, it marshals the leadership of indigenous organizations to reach high-risk youth.

The Unionville partnership is led by Rev. Sam Johnson of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, a graduate of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Neighborhood Leadership Development Institute. Other members of the group have received technical assistance from CNE, which helps leaders of neighborhood and faith-based organizations address the problems of their communities. In the late 1990s the Center also worked closely with former Macon Police Chief Rodney Monroe in negotiating and maintaining peace in one of the most dangerous sections of Washington, DC, when Chief Monroe was an Assistant Chief of Police there.

Leaders of the community organizations will meet from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Tuesday, and from 1:30 until 3:00. Woodson will outline the approaches that have been successful in reducing violence in Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Milwaukee, and Washington, DC, and discuss his own observations of what works and why based on 30 years of experience. Before founding the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, Woodson worked as a correction officer, social worker in the child welfare system, and as a community activist developing outside strategies. He will discuss the appropriate relationships between community organizations and law enforcement and other public entities, as well as the important role of private philanthropies. A public meeting will convene at 6 p.m. that evening to discuss these issues and to talk about what community members can do to address the issues of violence and crime in their neighborhoods.