



NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION **Stockton youth to speak at North Carolina Police Roundtable**

(Stockton, CA) – Domingo Lopez, a young man from Stockton who has been supported by the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) and Peacekeepers, has been selected to participate in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s upcoming Police-Youth Engagement Roundtable. Lopez is one of only 10 individuals chosen from across the country, out of nearly 100 candidates. The two-day forum will be held July 19 - 20, 2017, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“We are really excited for Mr. Lopez, as this is a great opportunity to be heard on a national level,” says Keiland Henderson, OVP Outreach Supervisor/Peacekeeper. “He represents those in our community who have experienced crime and violence, and his direct experience will help improve ideas and strategies that we must use to increase trust between law enforcement and our community. Domingo’s generational perspective will be informative and invaluable.”

Those chosen – youth and young adults – will share thoughts and experiences with law enforcement and discuss key issues in juvenile justice and police-youth relations. Participants will also receive training about the juvenile justice system, discuss and develop methods to resolve conflict, and identify ways to effectively share their stories and

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experiences with others.

“We can’t wait to hear what he’ll bring back to our community... and more importantly to our youth,” continued Henderson. “It’s good to know that our work is truly restorative.”

Through the Peacekeeper program, youth and young adults with the highest risk of gang involvement, particularly serious gun-related violence, are mentored and provided with options and positive alternatives for a healthier, non-violent lifestyle.

Related info... Have you always wondered who the Peacekeepers are and what they do for the community? Check out our Peacekeeper video series beginning Thursday, July 20. The next three (3) videos will be posted August 2, 16, and 30. Visit www.stocktonca.gov/news or www.stocktonca.gov/ovp for details.

For questions about the Peacekeeper program or the Office of Violence Prevention, please call (209) 937-8880 or email LaTosha.Walden@stocktonca.gov.

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