

Let's Have a Talk...

About arrests and public behavior of our youth

During the past year, the Charlotte and Concord branches of the NAACP worked closely with local law enforcement agencies and shopping mall operators. Together, we formed an alliance known as Metrolina Community Partners. This group has focused on educating the community of the long term negative impact an arrest or inappropriate public behavior may have on one's future. Regardless of guilt or innocence, such activity may be unforgiving and lead to:

- the permanent denial of educational or training opportunities
- the permanent denial of employment opportunities and job loss
- difficulties in criminal background checks for a lifetime

As we enter the holiday season, area schools are closed for Winter Break. Our children and young adults are meeting in local shopping centers and spending time with friends at area malls. During last year's holiday season, many of our youth were arrested for inappropriate conduct, loitering and fighting at area malls. These arrests have had many severely negative consequences for those involved.

Metrolina Community Partners is providing the enclosed brochure to give guidance tips for our parents to discuss with their youth. This is in effort to significantly decrease the number of arrests of our youth, not only during the holiday season, but year round. Let's talk with our families about proper public behavior. These tips are applicable in all situations. We are asking for your assistance in copying and sharing this brochure throughout the community. Join us in a program to educate our community. **Let's have a talk towards solutions.**

If you are interested in working towards a summit on these issues, please feel free to contact Queen Thompson, Project Coordinator of Let's Have a Talk campaign.

Thank you in advance for your support in this effort to encourage our youth in proper conduct and ensure we have a safe and pleasant holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Queen N. Thompson

Metrolina Partners Coordinator
704.333.7966 (Office)
704.536.3290 (Fax)
educationalsolut@bellsouth.net