

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOP JUSTICE OFFICIAL TO VISIT LOCAL FAITH INITIATIVE

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., JANUARY 6, 2005: J. Robert Flores, Administrator of the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) will be in Los Angeles on **January 12-13, 2005** to visit the Los Angeles TenPoint Coalition, a faith-based youth crime prevention organization that has been awarded a **\$600,000** grant from the Justice Department to provide mentoring and other services to African-American youth who have spent at least 3 months in juvenile detention. The Los Angeles TenPoint Coalition is a replication and affiliate of the Boston TenPoint Coalition co-founded by Rev. Eugene Rivers. The clergy-led crime-fighting initiative in conjunction with public, private and governmental partners was chiefly responsible for a 62 percent decrease in youth crime in Boston during the early 1990s.

The L.A. TenPoint Coalition is operated by Rev. Mark B. Jennings, a former print journalist for the *Ventura County Star* and *Virginian-Pilot* newspapers. Jennings is a recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School. Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor of West Angeles COGIC, a 25,000 member African-American church located in the Crenshaw District, has been instrumental in helping to incubate the TenPoint program in Los Angeles.

Mr. Flores was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to his position in April of 2002 and has since worked tirelessly on youth issues especially around gang violence prevention and intervention.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. –Tour of West Angeles Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and the Juvenile facilities where TenPoint does the majority of its work around re-entry. (During this tour, Justice Officials, Probation officials, TenPoint staff and others will meet at the North Campus of West Angeles COGIC then proceed via caravan to visit such sites as Camp Holton in Sylmar, Central/Eastlake Juvenile facility, Locke High School, Imperial Courts Housing Community and other sites where TenPoint in working collaboratively with probation youth.

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. –Wednesday Night Religious Service honoring National Mentoring Month (North Campus of West Angeles COGIC located at 3045 Crenshaw Blvd). (Los Angeles TenPoint will honor individuals and organizations that have been instrumental to mentoring in Los Angeles. Also Mr. Flores will be allotted a few minutes for remarks.)

Thursday, January 13, 2005

9:30 a.m.-10 a.m. –Press Conference/Check Presentation Ceremony. (North Campus of West Angeles COGIC in the Crystal Room) (This event will formally launch the TenPoint Re-Entry Initiative. There will be a check presentation ceremony along with remarks from dignitaries including, Mr. Flores, Bishop Charles E. Blake, TenPoint staff, Probation and select elected officials).

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. –Roundtable conversation with J. Robert Flores of the U.S. Justice Department and local gang intervention and prevention agencies. (North Campus of West Angeles COGIC in the Crystal Room) Flores, director of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention, will talk about the new justice department mandate on gangs and learn from local agencies about their success and challenges.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

-Link to bio on J. Robert Flores: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/administrator.html>

-Link to the Los Angeles TenPoint Coalition: www.latenpoint.org

-Link to West Angeles Church of God in Christ: www.westa.org

-Link about the Boston Miracle/Boston TenPoint: www.bostonstrategy.com

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