



CITY NEWS

Wichita Police Department
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 268-4340 FAX (316) 858-7704



DATE: April 1, 2010
CONTACT: Capt. Jeff Easter
316-688-9500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** News Release ****

Wichita Walk Against Gang Violence set for Saturday

“Gang walk” an opportunity for citizens to stand up to gangs

The Wichita Police Department, Safe Streets Wichita, St. Patrick’s Parish, the Kansas Air National Guard and two dozen other co-sponsors have joined together to sponsor the Wichita Walk Against Gang Violence in North Wichita on Saturday, April 3, 2010, it was announced today by Captain Jeff Easter, commander of the department’s Patrol North Bureau. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at North High School with the walk starting at 10:30 a.m. The walk will end at approximately 11:00 a.m. with remarks by the mayor and local clergy.

Numerous organizations will have display tables set up at the former Dillon’s store at 13th and Waco to provide marchers with such diverse information as the warning signs parents should look for that might indicate their children are becoming involved in a gang, to how to mentor young people and provide them with positive role models. The displays will remain in place until 1:00 p.m.

“This is an opportunity for citizens in our community to show they are united against gang violence,” said Easter. “There are more than two dozen organizations who have committed their time and resources to draw citizens from all parts of Wichita together and encourage them to unite and send a clear message to members of street gangs that this community will not tolerate gang violence.”

Easter said the event is free and open to the public. “All citizens who want to show their support against gang violence are welcome to join the walk.” Easter said the more citizens who become involved, the better.

Numerous organizations in Wichita from the faith community, members of the Hispanic community and the African-American coalition to Wichita Public Schools, Crime Stoppers and the Wichita Crime Commission have provided strong support for the event, Easter said.

“There is great diversity among those who will be showing their solidarity against gang violence. While this event is a positive backdrop for Wichita to display its diversity, it has brought together people of many cultures from all walks of life with one purpose: to stand up against local street gangs.”

The route of the walk will take marchers from North High north on Rochester to 15th Street, then west on 15th to Arkansas, North on Arkansas to 21st Street, then east on 21st to Waco Street, and then south to 13th Street and back to North High.

Those who plan to join the walk should arrive at North High School by 10:00 a.m., said Easter.

An informational flyer listing the sponsors is attached.

#

WICHITA WALK AGAINST GANG VIOLENCE

Are you tired of gang violence in Wichita?
Come show your support against gang violence.

Date: Saturday April 3, 2010 10:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

Location: North High School

Time: Arrive by 9:45 a.m. Walk will start at 10:30

Walking Distance: Less than 2 miles

After the walk you are invited to view informational booths and static displays in the parking lot of the former Dillon's Store at 13th & Waco. There will also be public officials and local Clergy speaking about the dangers of gang violence in our City.

Sponsored by:

Wichita Police Dept	21st Street Business Association
Safe Streets Wichita	El Pueblo N.A.
Sedgwick County Sheriff Dept	Communities in Schools
Crime Stoppers	Wichita Crime Commission
Big Brothers and Big Sisters	Kansas Air National Guard
Catholic Diocese	U.S.D. 259
St Paul's Lutheran Church	Tiempos
ATF / US Attorney's Office	NOMAR CDC
LaFamilia Senior Center	City of Wichita
NLPOA Wichita/Sedgwick County	Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts
St. Patrick's Parish	Historic Mid-Town Cit. Assn.
Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall	African-American Coalition
Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office	Dellrose United Methodist Church

For Additional information contact:

Randy Wells at 263-1389 or randy@safestreetswichita.org

Sgt. Jose Salcido, Wichita Police Dept. at 688-9500 or jsalcido@wichita.gov