

# ORLEANS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY



A Publication of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

## *A Message from the Chief Judge*



I am proud that this year we were able to produce quality newsletters to share our court news. I now introduce our new titled publication, *Orleans Juvenile Justice Today*.

We want our newsletters to become more reflective and more representative of who we are today – one agency administering one system.

Through this newsletter, we hope you enjoy the success stories, articles and features that will reflect a wide array of different programs, special events, and community participation as we continue to produce and get involved. Enjoying the

stories and profiles of the wonderful people who we serve and who do this work that you may not hear about otherwise.

It's an unfortunate fact of life that most of what we may hear about OPJC is of a negative nature. But the fact is that the achievements, the creativity, the dedication and commitment are a reflection of the work of our employees who often doesn't typically get the same level of attention. So this is an effort, one effort, to continue to communicate among ourselves about some of the exciting and noteworthy activities going on at OPJC which is of success and significant efforts.

I hope you will find articles of interest in these pages, and, I invite you to submit great stories we can share in our newsletter editions. We thank you in advance

for your contributions and appreciate your suggestions of how we can continue to improve on *Orleans Juvenile Justice Today*.

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## **Raising the Bar of Success**

As I approach the court room, I see a tall young man, poised, confident, and intelligent. Devanti D., sixteen years old is starting a new chapter in his life. One of determination, persistence, and most importantly...one of Success! Devanti entered the juvenile justice system at fourteen. He served in the Youth Study Center for nine months and served three months at Bridge City. Before we began the interview, I noticed Devante was very humble and comfortable. I appreciated his honesty about his history. He was very confident, open and honest.

### **Why did you enter the Youth Study Center?**

*"I entered the YSC at 14 years old. When I entered, I had many behavioral problems. I would purposely get into fights and disrespect the staff. After I got tired of doing this I then realized the seriousness of my situation and by age fifteen years old, I started to realize the seriousness of the situation. I then changed and I worked with staff and school teachers, respecting, listening and following directions. I realize that this is what I have to do to get out of here.*



Devanti poses with Chief Judge  
Candice B. Anderson

### **How did the staff help you with your behavior and other areas?**

*The teachers were understanding and wanted to help me transition because they realized I was serious. I felt they understood what I was feeling.*

### **What happened after you left the YSC?**

*I went to Bridge City for my last three months of my sentence. I continued to progress but there were a few bumps in between because of the environment I was in. Not by choice but I was forced into a physical altercation where they wanted you to prove yourself. I knew how to avoid the situation by staying by myself and doing things to keep me occupied and on track. I would read books. I was too young to take classes for trade. So I would do things on my own like clean-up and read books.*

### **What types of books did you read or which you most admired?**

*"One book I read that helped me while in detention was, "Malcom X." That book kept my mind occupied."*

### **What happen after you left Bridge City?**

*After I left Bridge City, I still had one year probation. So I avoided certain situations, I changed my crowd and started working with my Dad learning diesel mechanics. With my family and mentors, I stayed on the right track, they kept me motivated to do right and make them proud.*

### **What are your plans now?**

*Now that I'm off probation, I want to finish high school and go to an HBCU and major in Economics and attend Law School after I graduate. Once I become a lawyer, I want to give back to the younger children in the community.*

### **If you could give advice to someone going through the same thing as you, what would you tell them?**

*I would tell them one thing, "Know there is still light at the end of the tunnel."*

**Devante is currently attending high school and continues to work with his Dad.**

## OPJC Hosts Workshop on Juvenile Justice Work with Judge Steve Teske

OPJC welcomed community leaders and members to the Racial Justice Improvement Project Task Force meeting on August 28, 2017. Judge Steven Teske workshop presenter is the Chief Presiding Judge of Clayton County, GA and is a member of the Georgia Commission on Criminal Justice Reform.

With the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section and with the support from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Racial Justice Improvement Project, Juvenile Reform is designed to identify and reform policies and practices and produce racial disparities using the RJIP task force model. RJIP establishes partnerships with local officials from the prosecution, defense, judiciary, law enforcement and the

community and through the established task force works to provide technical and

project assistance and financial support to make the local criminal justice system more efficient and fair. The task force identifies discretionary decision points in the juvenile process that produce racial disparities and seeks to develop evidence-based policy reforms to correct these differences.

The task force is currently working with OPJC's school-based project, Paving Alternative Strategies for Success (PASS). Judge Teske's presentation consist of the School-Justice Partnership Model: Using Restorative Practices to Enhance School Climate and Public Safety. In his presentation, Judge Teske highlighted the complex trauma issues in children and how it affects their behavior,



Judge Teske stand with Senior Judge, Ernestine Gray and Chief Judge Candice Bates Anderson.

which leads to at-risk behaviors committed in schools.

A follow-up meeting on September 19, 2017 was held to discuss the PASS program process and restorative justice practice of the program. OPJC has identified two target schools to participate in the PASS program. The duration of the program is for one year and if successful, the plan is to incorporate this program into the school's disciplinary policies.

### *RJIP Sponsors!*





## What is the New Orleans CYPB anyway?

By Karen Evans,  
CYPB Executive Director

Sometimes it's easier to understand what something is by knowing what it is not.

- CYPB is not a program or service; it does not deliver programs or services of any kind
- CYPB is not a funding entity; it issues no grants and gives no funding to any other entities
- The State of LA does not fund; NOLA CYPB has never received funding from the state of Louisiana, it is an unfunded state mandate.
- CYPB is not funded by the Juvenile Justice System of Orleans Parish; NOLA CYPB has never received funding from OPJC.

## So, what is the New Orleans CYPB anyway?

The New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board (CYPB) is a board of not more than **25** members, appointed by the City Council, with 1 full time staff, in position to fulfil the purpose and function as outlined in the State legislation and the City ordinance. Find the full legislation and ordinance on the CYPB website at [www.nolacypb.org](http://www.nolacypb.org).

The CYPB exists to create, implement, and monitor a comprehensive plan for the services and programs that best respond to the demonstrated needs of children and youth in Orleans Parish.

The Board is intended to encourage collaborative efforts among local stakeholders in assessing the physical, social, emotional, developmental, behavioral, educational, safety and poverty impacts and needs of children and youth in their respective communities, and to assist the board in the development of comprehensive plans to address such needs.

The comprehensive plan will promote:

- development, implementation and operation of services which encourage positive youth development
- diversion of children and youth from criminal justice and foster care systems
- reduction in the commitments of youth to state institutions
- provision of a community response to the rate of juvenile delinquency

The CYPB is designed and intended to be a **planning board...planning with the end in mind:**

Well-being, Safety, and Permanency for the children and youth of Orleans Parish.



By title,  
*Karen Evans*  
Karen Evans  
Executive Director

# OPJC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juvenile Justice Awareness Day

In partnership with Total Community Action, Incorporated, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court welcomed over 200 community guests to its second Annual Juvenile Justice Awareness Day on August 5, 2017. Community leaders, youth and their families enjoyed music, food, resource information, and door prizes.

Every youth that participated in the event received a school bag filled with supplies. There were a variety of resource agencies that participated: mental and behavioral health agencies, health and nutrition, and medical healthcare providers. Some of our sponsors included Walmart, Best Buy, Office Depot, and many others.

As a JDAI initiative, this event is established to bring community awareness to Orleans Parish Juvenile Court on its programs and processes while providing resource information to families on health and education within the community.



*Chief Judge Anderson receives a Proclamation from the City of New Orleans by Councilmember Jared Brossett, District D.*

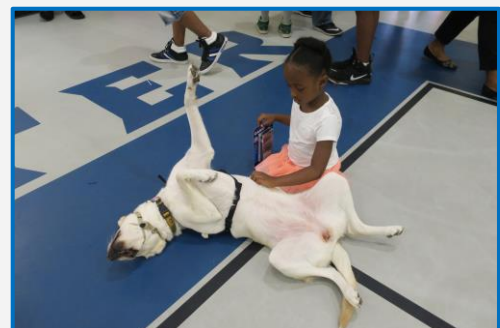


*Residents visit the Ubuntu Village resource table.*

*Community resident receives a bag of school supplies from Mr. Clarence Bickham, Youth Advocate with the ODAP Program.*



*Suzie gets tickled by event visitor.*



## Community Celebrates Suzie's First Year at OPJC

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court members and community leaders and residents celebrated Suzie's first year with the court.

The event was held at the Keller Library where visitors got a chance to meet Suzie as they were read to by special guests. Deacon John read to the audience as Suzie turned the pages with her nose. Reigning King Zulu, Adonis Expose' and his Queen, Donna M. Glapion also enjoyed reading to the guests.

Families also enjoyed crafts, activities, and got to take a picture with Suzie, and refreshments.

At the end of the event, Suzie went out "New Orleans" style and second lined outside the library with her friends.



Deacon John plays the guitar while Suzie smiles for the camera.



Zulu King, Adonis Expose' and Zulu Queen Donna M. Glapion at Anniversary.



Suzie turns the pages of a book while Deacon John read to audience.



### Suzie's Little Free Library

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court has a new library. Through the generosity of LittleFreeLibrary.org, children visiting the court will have the opportunity to read a book with Suzie. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Generous donors provided books for the library.

## *Orleans Parish Juvenile Court School-Justice Partnership Training*

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court and the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section will launch of a new, innovative deflection program called the “*Orleans Parish School-Based Intervention Initiative.*” We will begin the program with the *Juvenile Deflection Program and Implicit Bias Training and Luncheon on November 6, 2017* at the Louisiana Supreme Court located at 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The School-Based Intervention Initiative is a project funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Public Welfare Foundation. The Task Force is composed of Chief Judge Candice B. Anderson, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Chief Michael Harrison, and NOPD along with other community leaders who will collaborate closely with each other in developing a program to reduce the number of youth-directed to juvenile court because of minor school-based offenses. The School-Based Intervention Initiative focus on addressing the developmental needs of youth, keeping youth in a healthy and productive educational environment and helping youth transition into productive members of society.



You Are Invited to attend  
the  
**JUVENILE DEFLECTION  
PROGRAM & IMPLICIT BIAS  
TRAINING**

**8:30am – 4:00pm**

Learn about:  
**The Role of the Education & Justice System  
in Dismantling the  
School-to-Prison Pipeline**



For more information email [infoopjc@nola.gov](mailto:infoopjc@nola.gov)

Special Guests  
**Judge Steven Teske**

Architect of the  
School-Justice-Partnership

&



Hosted by:  
The American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's  
Racial Justice Improvement Project  
&  
The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.  
Breakfast & Lunch Provided.

Sponsored by:



# OPJC COURT EVENTS



## National Awareness and Observances

October 1-31

*Domestic Violence Awareness Month (National)*

800.537.2238 - [nrcdvta@nrcdv.org](mailto:nrcdvta@nrcdv.org)

November 1 - 30

*National Runaway Prevention Month*

December

*International Day of Persons with Disabilities*

*For questions or comments regarding newsletter, please e-mail Tina Haines, [thbrown@gmail.com](mailto:thbrown@gmail.com)*



