

KYW 1060

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**'No Peace' at Phila. Schools  
by KYW's Hadas Kuznits**

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations held a public hearing on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the issue of school violence.

Commissioner Marshal Freeman says violence in Philadelphia Public Schools is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed:

"There's too much, there's too much, there's too much. And it needs to stop. It's generational, and it has both economic and social implications. And it goes far beyond the classroom and the school building."

Among those who testified at the hearing was Dr. Grace Ryder with the Children's Crisis Treatment Center:

(Kuznits:) Why do you think there's so much violence in Philadelphia schools?

(Ryder:) "Limited resources. You almost heard it in every speaker -- and we find that to be true."

Mark Ensley with the Institute for the Development of African American Youth says money would help organizations provide anti-violence programs:

"What I would like to see happen is that the funding streams that are allocated to deal with these issues are more put towards prevention measures and not punitive measures."

Olney West freshman Shaquille Jones does not feel safe at his school: "Because there's a lot of violence there, and no peace."

**Nine more public hearings will be held. The commission will then compile a full report.**

**Hearing schedule**

**Hearing 1**

*Comprehensive School Region*

Thursday, January 28, 2010—Guerin Recreation Center, 16<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets

**Hearing 2**

*Southwest Region*

Tuesday, March 16, 2010—Myers Recreation Center, 58<sup>th</sup> St. and Kingsessing Ave.

**Hearing 3***West Region*

Tuesday, April 6, 2010—Gustine Recreation Center, 4863 Ridge Ave.

**Hearing 4***Northwest Region*

Tuesday, April 20, 2010—Finley Recreation Center, 7701 Mansfield Ave.

**Hearing 5***Northeast Region*

Thursday, May 6, 2010—Pelbano Recreation Center, 2138 Solly Ave.

**Hearing 6***North Region*

Tuesday, May 25, 2010—Olney Recreation Center, A & Spencer Streets

**Hearing 7***Central East Region*

Tuesday, June 8, 2010—Towey Playground, 1832 N. Howard St.

**Hearing 8***Eastern Region*

Tuesday, September 28, 2010—Samuel Recreation Center, 3539 Gaul St.

**Hearing 9***Central Region*

Wednesday, October 13, 2010—Free Library, 19th and Vine Streets

**Hearing 10***South West Region*

Tuesday, October 26, 2010—48th and Woodland Playground, 4740 Woodland Ave.

**Hearing 11***South Region*

Tuesday, November 16, 2010—Columbus Square Recreation Center, 12th and Wharton Streets