

# NEWS RELEASE



## CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH

**Office of the City Council**  
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### **Mayor**

Thomas A. Masters

### **City Council**

Cedrick A. Thomas (Dist. 3),  
*Chair*  
Dawn S. Pardo (Dist. 4), *Pro-  
Tem*  
Bruce A. Guyton (Dist. 1)  
Judy L. Davis (Dist. 2)  
Terence 'T.D.' Davis (At-  
Large)

### **City Manager**

Ruth C. Jones

### **City Attorney**

Pamala Hanna Ryan

### **City Clerk**

Carrie E. Ward, MMC

## **RIVIERA BEACH**

*"The Best Waterfront City  
In Which To Live,  
Work, And Play"*

**For Immediate Release: May 7, 2013**

**Contact: Detective Andrew Hinds, 561-840-0153**

## **Anti-gang program graduation Thursday**

When the conflict between Haitian-American and African-American teen gangs spilled over into gunshots at Newcomb Hall in September, Crime Scene Detective Andrew Hinds was the investigator on the ground.

He easily recalls that incident even now, as he prepares to graduate 30 elementary school students of Haitian descent from his G.R.E.A.T.—Gang Resistance Education And Training — program at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2013, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are students at Bethel Junior Academy in Riviera Beach and successfully completed the six-week program. Topics included bullying, anger management and making good choices.

The event will feature staff from PBSO, ATFE and RBPD. Assistant City Police Chief A.C. Harris and Mayor Thomas A. Masters are expected to attend; the Mayor, who has been working on anti-youth violence measures for years, will speak.

“When that incident (at Newcomb Hall) happened, I think all of us were struck with a sense of ‘what can we do? Something has to be done,’” Detective Hinds said.

His something was education. He’d taken the training course for G.R.E.A.T., a national program, last year. This is his first graduating class from a school, though he also has taught individual courses at the City’s Youth Empowerment Program.

“Chief Williams fully backs this program as a response to the issue of gang violence, which is something all cities, no matter what size, have to deal with,” Detective Hinds added. “This is one way Riviera Beach is responding, at the grass roots level.”

The graduation is free and open to the public.

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