



South Bay Workforce Investment Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**Inglewood Police Department Strengthens Communications and Relationships
with Inglewood Teens through Dialogue**

August 24, 2015 – The Inglewood Teen Center hosted its first student-Police Dialogue Program on August 19, 2015 at the Inglewood Teen Center, located at 101 W. Manchester Blvd., with more than 30 area students and 15 Inglewood Police Department Officers participating.

Operated by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), in partnership with the City of Inglewood, the Inglewood Teen Center is approaching its second year of service next month and sees up to 30 students on a daily basis.

The dialogue event was coordinated by Inglewood Police Department Sergeant Reginald Blaylock, who was placed in Community Affairs earlier in 2015, Inglewood Teen Center staff, and volunteers. Blaylock, coordinated the event utilizing Inglewood Community and Regional Engagement (I-CARE), which was awarded to the City of Inglewood in partnership with the SBWIB and Centinela Youth Services. I-CARE is designed to provide positive support and programs that keep young people safely away from gangs, crime and violence and is part of a California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) grant by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BOSCC).

The goal of the dialogue was to provide youth with a better understanding of law enforcement by answering questions that students were curious about. The discussion also centered on student rights, responsibilities, appropriate police/youth interaction, policies, and current events.

Blaylock said “I asked for officers to volunteer to be a part of the discussion and received an overwhelming response, so much that I had to turn a few officers away.” He added, “I wanted the kids to see that here in Inglewood we are all an extension of one another. That Inglewood is our community as well. We all call Inglewood home. We have friends and built relationships with many residents and business owners in Inglewood. I wanted them to know that we care and that we are not just an authority figure. I think we accomplished that.”

Open weekday afternoons from 3-6 p.m., the Inglewood Teen Center provides a safe environment where teens can have fun and learn through games, computers, counseling and workshops. The center, which is free for students, reinforces the importance of preparing for careers by staying in high school and entering college.

Photo caption:

The Inglewood Teen Center hosted its first Student-Police Dialogue Program August 19, 2015, for area youth, ages 13-18. Pictured is a group of students listening to Inglewood Police Officers at one of several tables during a small informal breakout session during the event.

