

For Immediate Release  
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**“Shooting for Peace” Press Conference to be Held March 14 at 10am at Coppin State University**

Baltimore, MD – A local coalition of community organizations, church leaders, government officials, schools, businesses, and private individuals have launched Shooting for Peace (SFP), a grassroots, anti-violence effort in Baltimore. The coalition will hold a press conference on Monday, March 14 at 10am at Coppin State College to introduce the organization and events planned for the week of April 11-16.

“The goal of SFP is to refocus attention on peaceful action so neighborhoods are united and full of heart and hope,” said event coordinator Ray Sydnor. “By partnering with current and former professional athletes and local leaders, SFP will serve as a catalyst for leveraging the good that IS occurring in Baltimore.”

Across the nation urban communities are suffering from violence and crime, growing disparities in access to healthcare and economics, and disenfranchisement resulting in cities that are divided with a sense of hopelessness for a positive future. Locally despite a depth of character, history and pride, Baltimore’s positive image has suffered tremendous setbacks due to tragic events in the recent past. Violent demonstrations drew unwanted media attention and placed the city in a negative light. Today, the nation has a watchful eye on Baltimore, but for all the wrong reasons.

“I’m proud to be from Baltimore,” said Sydnor. “But neighborhoods and communities are not as strong as they used to be. We have to change that.”

Intent on shining a bright light on the great work throughout the metropolitan area, SFP is organizing a series of events over the next month beginning with the Press Conference on March 14. During the week of April 11, professional athletes from all over the country will come to Baltimore to support SFP and share messages of hope, unity, anti-violence, anti-bullying and positive choices in Baltimore's schools, churches, youth athletic programs and community organizations. The week's events will culminate with a fundraiser-basketball game featuring former NBA Stars versus Baltimore City Legends on Saturday April 16, 2016 at 3pm at Coppin State University.

“Sports have a way of uniting people and we plan use basketball to bring the community together,” Sydnor added.

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