

TAAC NEWS

APRIL 2016

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Crimestoppers GNO Teen Ambassadors Against Crime



2015-2016 TEEN AMBASSADORS AGAINST CRIME



Don't Break The Law

What do you do when the District Attorney for Orleans Parish adjusts his busy schedule to meet with you for an hour? You come to the meeting early and grab a good seat! Despite being in the difficult position to represent the state government in the prosecution of criminals, Ambassadors found **DA Leon Cannizzaro** to be intelligent, unpretentious and humorous. As expected, topics included Louisiana's criminal justice system and his academic path to becoming the District Attorney. Ambassadors however, did not hold back when it came to inquiring about the city having a better command on juvenile offenders, identifying their concerns with minors being tried as adults and discussing what they believed was fair when it came to state vs. federal laws. DA Cannizzaro's dynamism was felt through his honesty, resourcefulness and fatherly advice on specific ways teens can stay out of trouble. "It was a very cool visit," said one Ambassador. "He changed my opinion on lawyers and what they do ...bring him back for the next group!"

Who Can You Turn To?

Sometimes people are unfamiliar with the resources available to them until they need it. Ambassadors got a lot of surprises during their recent visit to the **New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC)**. While touring the facilities, they learned about the center's plethora of community partnerships that included the Children's Bureau, Anti-Stalking Program, Immigration Legal Program and even the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. What also impressed them was the way the center's **Community Educator, Jennifer Taylor**, "made things relatable and kept it real," as stated by one Ambassador. When it comes to working for NOFJC, Ms. Taylor illustrated her full plate after mentioning that she also serves as the Speak Up Dating Abuse Prevention Coordinator. It was at this point in the conversation when Ms. Taylor went into great detail regarding the definitions and signs of abuse, sexting laws and the truth about *consent*. The ambiance in the space was vibrant as Ambassadors hungrily looked for more questions and answers pertaining to the early signs of dating abuse and confusions about consent as experienced by their friends, peers and family members. Overall, their time spent with Ms. Taylor was summed up perfectly by one Ambassador, "Loved her, she's very passionate about her work and instrumental in the NOFJC organization. I never knew this place existed."



CEO's Message

Let's finish this year with a bang! Throughout our time together, it has been our honor helping you learn about careers in law enforcement, the costs and consequences of crime and connecting you with peers from all walks of life. **Now we need your help.** May 3rd is **GiveNOLA Day** and it's a pretty big deal for us. For just one day, over 700 local non-profits will be competing for monetary donations from locals like you. We're asking for your help promoting our wonderful organization and encouraging your family and friends to send a couple of dollars our way. But of course, **we want to make it fun for you!** The Ambassador who sends us the most donations on May 3rd will win the BIG prize basket which includes movie passes, restaurant gift cards, duffle bags, shirts, hats and more. Please note all donations must be made online on May 3rd on our page: <https://givenola.org/npo/crime-stoppers-gno>.

Thanks in advance for your support with this important fundraising effort.



Ms. Darlene