

Office of the City Representative

Melanie Johnson,
City Representative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Mayor Nutter and other City officials team up with high school students for successful annual PAL Day at City Hall mentoring event

PHILADELPHIA, (April 2, 2010) – More than 20 youngsters from the Police Athletic League (PAL) “shadowed” City officials at the **annual Lockheed Martin PAL Day at City Hall** today.

The students joined Mayor Michael A. Nutter, City Representative Melanie Johnson, the program’s emcee, PAL Day participants and City officials in a morning kick-off ceremony in the Mayor’s Reception Room at City Hall.

Mayor Nutter presented the students with a small memento from the City to acknowledge their academic and community achievements. Mayor Nutter posed for photos with each student and their designated public official. Lockheed Martin is the event sponsor and PAL Day partner, Charming Shoppes Inc., provided outfits to wear in the workplace for the female PAL students for the occasion.

For some of the youngsters, it was an up-close introduction to the professional workplace. To begin the official day, Mayor Nutter addressed the students.

“PAL is the very essence of mentoring,” Mayor Nutter said. “All you really need are caring adults who give their time. Through Lockheed Martin PAL Day at City Hall and other partnerships, the City continues to be heavily invested in developing many different mentoring models. “

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ADD 1/ PAL DAY AT CITY HALL

For PAL Day at City Hall, the youngsters represented PAL centers from sections Of the city including North, Northeast, South, Southwest, West, Germantown, Hunting Park, Port Richmond, Tacony, West Oak Lane, Wynnefield, Logan, Nicetown and Olney.

City Representative Melanie Johnson, the program's emcee, encouraged the PAL participants to get involved in the professional workplace through internships and other networking opportunities. Johnson said that PAL Day is a perfect way to start because it is a "potentially defining day of inspiration and investment."

"PAL Day at City Hall allows workplace mentors to gain insight about the skills and needs of our young leaders who will run our work force in the future," Johnson said. "By giving now, we can all reap the benefits tomorrow."

Other program participants will include Lt. Bryan Anthony, PAL Commanding Officer; Dennis Bianchi, PAL Chairman and General Manager of NBC10; Sally Berlin, PAL Day founder; Tracy Carter-Dougherty, Director of Community Relations, Lockheed Martin, and supervising PAL Center police officers.

Darrell Marrow, a member of the Southwest PAL Center and a Walter Biddle Saul High School student, represented PAL students in his address during the program as the "Honorary Mayor" for the day. Marrow is interested in a career in animal science, but was happy to spend time with Mayor Nutter to share his views on topics such as public education and green initiatives.

Twenty-five outstanding PAL Center youths participated in oaths of office as part of the event, recognizing the PAL students as honorary city officials for the day.

Following the "swearing-in" ceremony, the honorary student-City officials enjoyed a networking lunch before visiting various work sites to learn about the daily operations of local government. The students spent time at work with assigned officials from City departments, the judicial system and City Council.

Since 1947 –through the Philadelphia Police Department– generations of young people, from 6 to 18 years old, have benefitted from PAL programs. The PAL Day at City Hall format was established more than 30 years ago. With a mission of "Cops Helping Kids, PAL Centers are creative and constructive places to expand students' knowledge through academic and social activities such as homework clubs, computer labs, field trips, college fairs, self-esteem workshops, chess, dance, sports and much more. With 26 centers across Philadelphia serving almost 26,000 kids, PAL offers a variety of sports, education and recreational programs free to local youths. PAL is a vital part of the various services that the City provides to young people in neighborhoods. For more information on PAL programs, visit www.phillypal.com.

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