



## Media Contact:

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## **#RelationshipsMatter**

### **Community Mediation Partners with Baltimore City Police for Youth Dialogues**

(Baltimore, MD) - Community Mediation has brought together in a unique program Baltimore City youth and the cops that police them. In response to the Baltimore Uprising, and in concert with Councilmember Brandon Scott, Community Mediation completed a successful pilot of dialogue facilitation in the Fall of 2015. BRANDON SCOTT QUOTE

Youth & Police Dialogue Circles provide a safe space for open discussion between youth and police officers, anchored in principles of emotional intelligence. During these discussions, both youth and police officers have the opportunity to share personal experiences, hear new perspectives, exercise empathy for the experiences of one another and consider how to make their interactions with each other more positive.

This process enables participants to hear new perspectives and get an opportunity to feel heard by a group that they are not used to engaging with. POLICE QUOTE:

These sessions seek to work toward healing relationships that have been impacted by implicit bias. In partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools and Baltimore Police Department, Community Mediation is actively scheduling youth/police dialogue circles throughout the city. SCHOOLS QUOTE

Michelle Herring, Community Mediation's Police / Community Mediation Coordinator is seeking schools interested in hosting these circles and middle and high school students who are interested in participating. She can be reached at 410-467-9165 or by email at [mherring@communitymediation.org](mailto:mherring@communitymediation.org).

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*Relationships matter. Community Mediation provides free mediation services and dispute resolution skills training to Baltimore City residents. Seventy-three volunteer mediators mediated nearly 300 conflicts in FY2015, working with partners ranging from the Baltimore City State's Attorney office to Baltimore City Schools to community groups. All mediators have at least 40 hours of experiential training, hands-on experience, and continuous work to improve their skills. Community Mediation is a member of Community Mediation Maryland (CMM), a coalition of 17 community mediation centers throughout the state. Learn more at [www.communitymediation.org](http://www.communitymediation.org).*