



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff



MEDIA RELEASE

STUDENTS OPTIONS: JAIL OR SCHOOL?

Hamilton County, Ohio, October 18, 2016 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports the launch of a community partnership with Super Seeds, a non-profit organization that provides alternative resources for school discipline with a focus on development.

Super Seeds is now partnering with our Hamilton County Sheriff's Department & The University of Cincinnati in the implementation of their "Option's Program." This program is designed to provide youth with the ability to see how behavior can have an impact on their life choices.

This program officially launched today, Tuesday, October 18th as they brought their first set of female students from Mt. Healthy, Aiken and Lockland High Schools for the "Option's Day Tour."

This program started with a tour of the Justice System. Youth received a tour of the intake and arraignment process, saw the courtroom in real time, and ended the morning with an inmate panel where they asked questions and spoke directly with inmates of their same gender. Throughout this process, they had attorneys, judges and other areas of law enforcement speak with them about their roles and responsibilities.

The second part of the program concluded with a tour of the UC campus that showed them the benefits of education and the many paths that it can take them in life. At the end of the day, students will have been presented with two options for them to process and ultimately decide for themselves which path their behavior potentially or intentionally can lead them.

Super Seeds Director Candice Tolbert stated, "This program was created to engage the community to assist our schools in the development of our youth. The uniqueness of our Super Seeds program is that we engage the community to come in to assist our youth. Unfortunately, we are raising a generation of youth in our African American communities especially that will fear and distrust law enforcement based on what they have seen in the media, social media, etc. One of our missions is to also help restore that relationship. We need law enforcement and it is imperative that our youth see our law enforcement officials in their day-to-day roles. We have community partnerships with attorneys, judges and police officers that are willing to help talk with and teach our youth de-escalation skills, anger management, conflict resolution, leadership, etc. I see this as another critical component of our Super Seeds Program."

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

Evening or Weekend Hours: Mobile (513) 235-9952

Mugshot Requests: Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org or call (513) 946-6230

After the Option's Day Program, Super Seeds will began group sessions to continue working with our youth, so that they can continue to foster their leadership and good decision-making abilities.

If you are interested in becoming a community partner, please go to: www.SuperSeeds.Foundation to complete an inquiry form or contact Candice Tolbert at 513-543-4275. We are looking for individuals, businesses, groups, etc. It is time that our youth see the village that is assisting in their development with an emphasis on education.