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Angels, officials at 'teen summit'

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Nearly 50 students attended a "teen summit" in Jersey City last week to discuss problems like youth violence, gangs and drugs - and possible solutions like scholarships, tutoring programs and recreational opportunities.

The event was organized by Dwayne Baskerville - a former mayoral candidate who ran for Hudson County freeholder last year despite being indicted on fraud charges - and by Rosalyn Browne, president of the Communipaw Avenue Block Association.

Also attending the summit, held Thursday in the Lincoln High School auditorium, were Jersey City Councilwoman Viola Richardson, Hudson County Freeholder Jeff Dublin, Jersey City Police Director Sam Jefferson and members of the recently formed Jersey City chapter of the Guardian Angels.

The audience was made up of the high school's student leaders, said Lincoln Principal Michael Winds.

The Guardian Angels, who have been patrolling Downtown Jersey City, are hoping to soon start patrolling the streets near Lincoln High School, said Tony Rivera, a member of the organization.

"We have experience with some of the toughest gangs out there like MS13, the Crips and the Bloods, and we don't carry any weapons," Rivera said. "But we will be out there."

Richardson also asked students to fill out surveys with their concerns and questions.

Baskerville said the event at Lincoln was the second in a series of summits he intends to convene in all the city's elementary as well as high schools.

Browne encouraged students to participate in community activities, including helping to maintain the recently renovated Erce F. Webb Park.

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