

SAVE OUR STREETS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 30, 2012

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S.O.S. Peace March Brings Crown Heights Residents Together To Speak Out Against Gun Violence

Over 500 people including businesses, organizations, clergy, and residents expected to march.

Hundreds of community members will take to the streets with Save Our Streets Crown Heights (S.O.S.) in the annual **March to End Gun Violence on Thursday, June 7th**. The march will bring people together to express their commitment to stopping the spread of gun violence. “Youth in my neighborhood think that gun violence is normal, and that is not okay with me,” says Reann Charles, 17. “It isn’t just that people are killed and hurt—it keeps us from thriving and reaching our potential.”

Unifying the community to stand against gun violence is central to the work of S.O.S. “I heard the chants of the last S.O.S. march and saw hundreds of people from my aunt’s window. I joined the crowd and they inspired me to join the program” said Melissa Scott, 17, who is now a member of Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YO S.O.S.). One goal of this year’s march is to charge community members with taking action to make the neighborhood safer. Outreach Worker Supervisor Lavon Walker says that “everyone in the neighborhood has a role to play in ending the disease of gun violence.” By marching, community members will also celebrate the decrease in violence the neighborhood has seen in the target area, from 23 incidents in 2010 to 12 in 2011.

The group will congregate at 5:30 p.m. at the southeast corner of **Brower Park**, at **Kingston Avenue and Park Place**. No registration is necessary to participate; groups who would like to walk together and be listed as a partner on our blog can visit soscrownheights.org to register. June 2nd-10th is also S.O.S. Week, with activities including: **Peace Games on Tuesday, June 5th**, a day of games for people of all ages in Brower Park, 4:30-7:00; **Virtual Peace Day on Monday, June 4th**, when community members are encouraged to use Facebook to spread messages of peace; and before the march on **Thursday** a **Block Party** from 12:00-4:00 (Park Place between Kingston Avenue and Brooklyn Avenue).

To stay informed about our activities, subscribe to our blog (soscrownheights.org) and like our Facebook page (facebook.com/soscrownheights).