

The EVAC Movement



Miss Donofrio's Class, Robert E. Lee High School

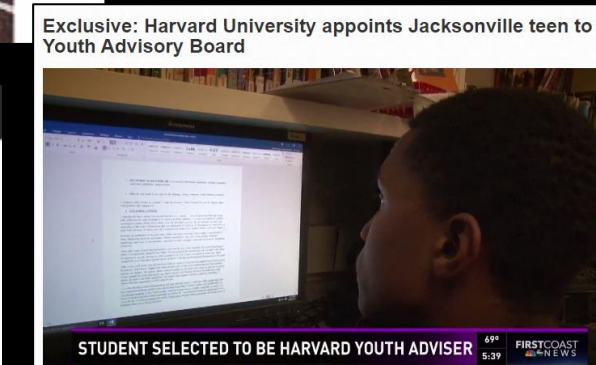
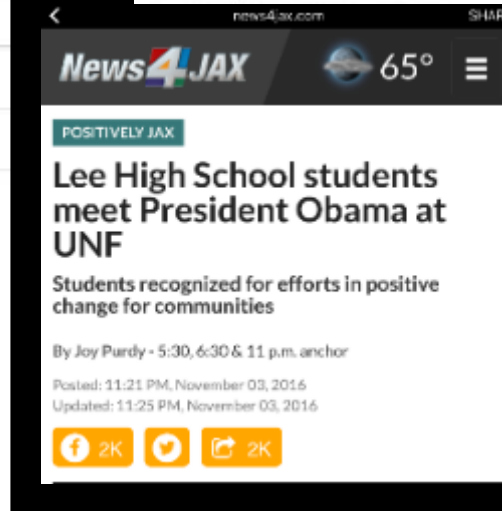
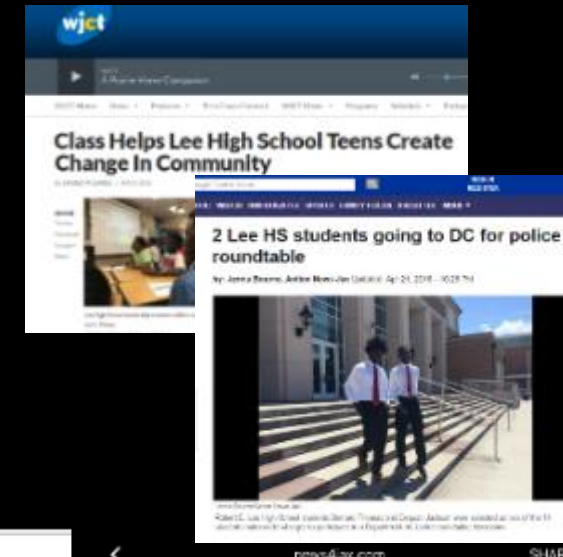
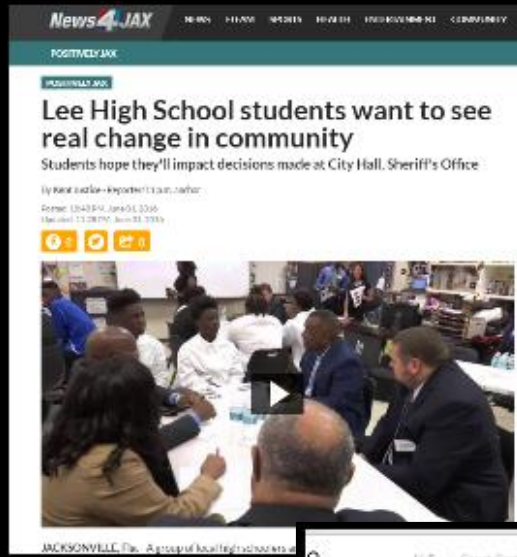
Feel free to take notes on our presentation 😊!



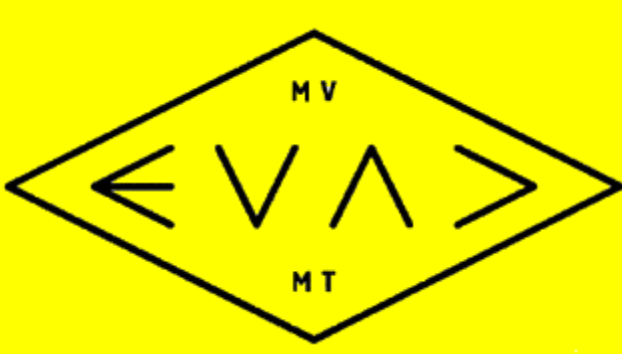
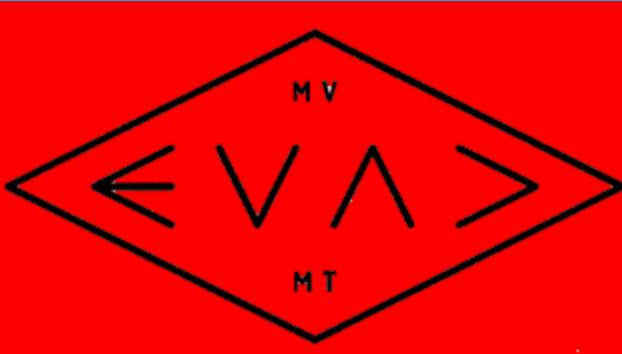
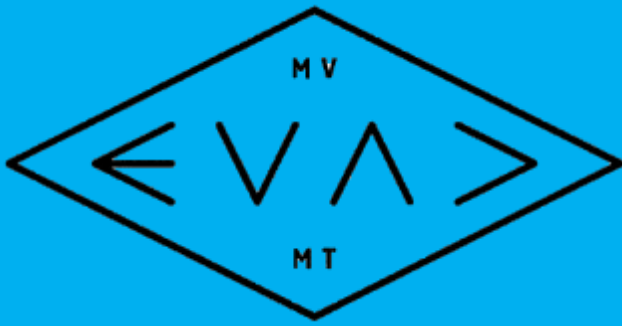
Since we started 2 years ago, EVAC's gotten more attention than we ever dreamed. Here's a recent story to give you more info about us & what we do

VIDEO: Generation JAX (0:30-3:30)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2018-generation-jax>

VIDEO: ActionJax
<http://www.actionjax.com/news/local/police-students-learn-lessons-of-peace-for-at-risk-youth-03>



FELTON



EVAC = “cave” backwards

Plato’s Allegory of the Cave-

prisoners who spent whole life chained in a cave, until someone led them to light.



We EVAC others by sharing our stories to:

- Give HOPE to teens in similar situations
- Give KNOWLEDGE to adults making decisions impacting us

Our EVAC Goals

1. UNDERSTANDING- help others understand the struggle through overwhelming them w/the truth (our stories).

2. MODIFY MINDSET- develop compassion, reduce judgment and think deeply about decisions that impact us.

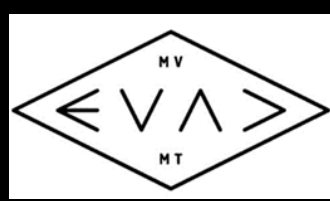
3. OPPORTUNITY- giving us the tools we need to better ourselves and better our community.



At the start of last year, we were in an all-boys class that was divided, hostile & distrustful of each other...until we began **SHARING OUR STORIES...**



...& we realized **violence, the justice system, and loss** had impacted us all



OUR STORY: Out of the 15 students in our class:

- ___ # w/immediate family (parent/sibling) in jail for significant time**
- ___ # detained and questioned by police 3 or more times**
- ___ # physically struck or slammed by police**
- ___ # have been arrested**
- ___ # close family member murdered**
- ___ # have been shot at**
- ___ # have seen someone get shot**
- ___ # have/had an absent parent**
- ___ # have felt pressured to provide for their family**

ALAN

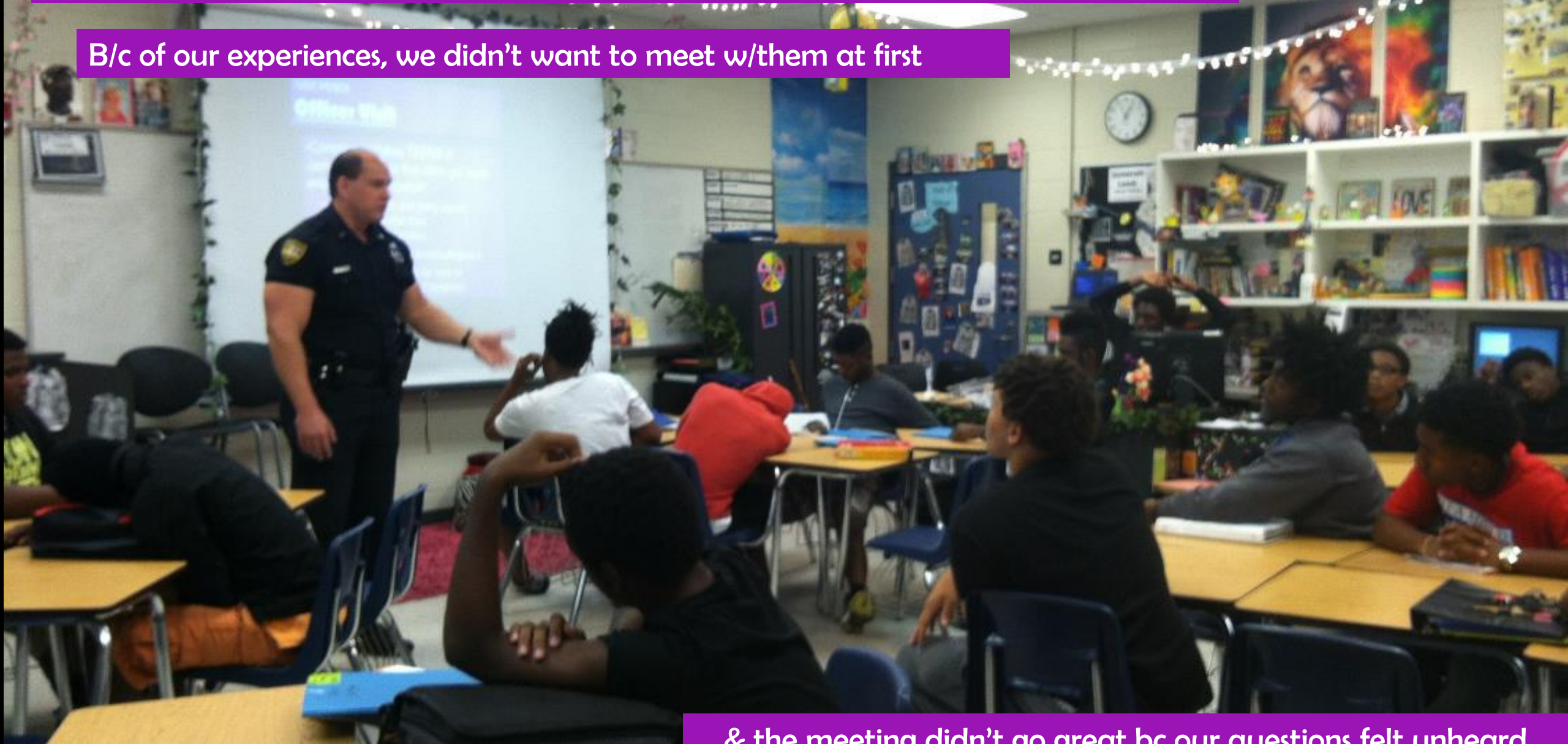
Sick of our city being a **CAVE** of murder, crime & hopelessness,



we decided to **share & use our stories**
to create change...

Our Journey Started w/JSO in Dec. 2015

B/c of our experiences, we didn't want to meet w/them at first



....& the meeting didn't go great bc our questions felt unheard

JAN. 2016:

US attorney Frank Talbot started meeting w/us regularly



In January, one of our classmates was arrested



Certified As Adult

(best offer was 10yrs.)

**1st charge; state attorney wouldn't respond to teacher's email or 5 letters of rec
This motivated us to push harder to change the system**

FEB.-APR. 2016:

Mr. Talbot brought more officials to HEAR OUR STORIES



2 classmates talk about getting unfairly adjudicated (youth felony) by age 15 on first offenses

MARCH 2016:

Co-hosts, Juvenile Justice Forum @ JU

jacksonville.com

82°
Now

92°
Tomorrow

95°
Thursday

HOME NEWS SPORTS MONEY LIFE REASON OPINION OBITS MEDIA CLASSIFIEDS

HOME/NEWS

Sending juvenile cases to adult court draws disagreement at Jacksonville juvenile justice forum

By Tessa Duvall Tue, Mar 29, 2016 @ 8:45 pm | updated Tue, Mar 29, 2016 @ 8:53 pm

BACK PHOTO 7 OF 9

NEXT



Bob Self@jacksonville.com
The audience listens to panelists during Tuesday evening's discussion on Juvenile Delinquency at JU.

It's a perennial juvenile justice issue in Jacksonville, and Tuesday night disagreements over sending kids to adult court was the highlight of a forum at Jacksonville University.

"904-Data: Delinquent Acts, Community Answers," presented by the Jacksonville Center for Children's Rights and the JU Public Policy Institute, brought together representatives of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Teen Court, the

Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office to talk through local justice trends.



APR. 2016:

Met w/Judge John Guy to Discuss Racial Disparity & Police Interactions



APRIL 2016, DC Trip #1:

Youth-Police Roundtable @ US. Dept. of Justice in DC



2 of 14 selected in the nation

JUNE 2016:

“At-Hope Youth Advisory Forum”

News 4 JAX NEWS TEAM SPORTS HEALTH ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY

POSITIVELY JAX


POSITIVELY JAX

Lee High School students want to see real change in community

Students hope they'll impact decisions made at City Hall, Sheriff's Office

By Kent Justice - Reporter/11 p.m. anchor

Posted: 10:46 PM, June 01, 2016
Updated: 11:22 PM, June 01, 2016

A photograph showing a group of people, including students and community members, sitting around a table in a meeting or forum setting. A large play button icon is overlaid on the center of the image, indicating it is a video thumbnail. The people are engaged in conversation, and the setting appears to be a classroom or a community room.

Shared Our Stories to:

- Federal judges
- City Councilmen
- JSO

August 2016, DC Trip #2:

Presented on Racial Disparity in Direct File at Coalition for Juvenile Justice National Youth Summit



Sept. 2016: Front Page *New York Times* Article



The New York Times

Court Costs Entrap Nonwhite, Poor Juvenile Offenders

By ERIK ECKHOLM AUG. 31, 2016



Impressed by our presentation in DC, *The New York Times* asked EVAC if one of us was willing to speak on court costs & fees: classmate Dequan stepped up

In the week after the NYT article, we got hundreds of calls/letters from around the world & Dequan was asked to fly to DC to speak on Capitol Hill
We raised \$10,000 in 24 hrs. for Class to Go w/Him



**FLIGHT
to DC**



**Most: 1st flight
Some: 1st time out of Jax**



Toured Howard

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

A group of approximately 15 diverse students are posing on a dark stone wall. The wall has the words "HOWARD UNIVERSITY" engraved in large, white, serif capital letters. The students are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, hoodies, and shorts. Some are standing, some are crouching, and some are sitting on the wall. The background shows a brick building and some greenery under bright sunlight.

Met w/Civil Rights Legend, Rep. John Lewis



Talked about marching w/MLK & getting fractured skull from police brutality

SEPT. 13, 2016, DC TRIP #3

US Senate Committee Hearing



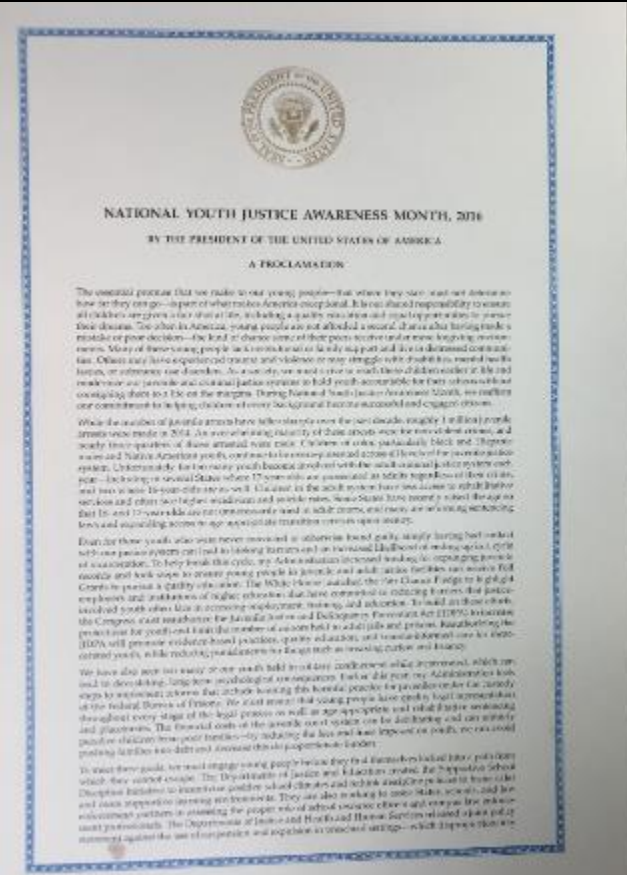
Senator Cory Booker

Policy Briefing at the White House



Each of us shared feedback with
President Obama's personal advisors

Our feedback was used to create policy, it contributed to: President Obama's Youth Justice Proclamation of October 2016



Nov. 2016: Met President Obama in recognition of our advocacy work



BILLY



'S

Junior Year Focus

impacting our LOVED ONES & CITY directly

Our Mindset: "Dream Crazy"

- Create free community center for youth
- Dept. of Justice Youth-Police Roundtable

- Partnership with Mayor
- Host job fair for other students

- Go on BET
- Go on a yacht
- Meet a Billionaire
- Boxseats @ Jags (sept. 2017)
- Go to Jags game

First news story to popup about Lee in searches is positive

- Meet Oprah
- Eureka city leader/ youth meeting
- Meet w/Miami Officials (who've reduced crime)
- Meet w/Sen. Marco Rubio in Eureka & class

Back from DC: New Year Goals Sept. 16, 2016

EVAC

Where does **EVAC** go from here?

"DREAM CRAZY"

- Meet John Lewis
- Meet Elaine Brown
- Meet Angela Davis

-meet Britney!!

- Have an African-American History Month Assembly
- Give a Ted Talk (Sept. 2017)
- Go out of country!! (AFRICA!!)

"I heard that dreams come true is when they do that it's a beautiful thing."

← Instilling hope in youth →

- Meet President Obama
- make our own book (or documentary)
- meet w/Butler & Mattiel
- Block Party!!
- Be on CNN
- Get 100,000 hits on website
- Speak @ Mr. Jay's Church
- Visit at least 3 more colleges

- Food Drive
- meet with T.I. ("We Will Not")/partner for change
- Be on a talk show
- Win a national contest
- Speak w/producer of Freedom Writers
- Speak at Florida Capitol building
- Send music to major artist
- Speak to youth at detention center
- Meet w/SA Melissa Nelson on regular basis

- Get J Cole to Lee!! (because are real concert)
- meet w/cancer patients
- Everyone over 3.0 by end of year
- Everyone college ready ACT by end of year
- At least one t-shirt
- Record a class track
- Produce a music video
- Another Roundtable
- Class visit to Darius
- Have partnership w/Harvard
- Trip as a class
- Facetime lil Boosie

#1 Dural Difference video

-- Classmate free/ NO adult record!!!

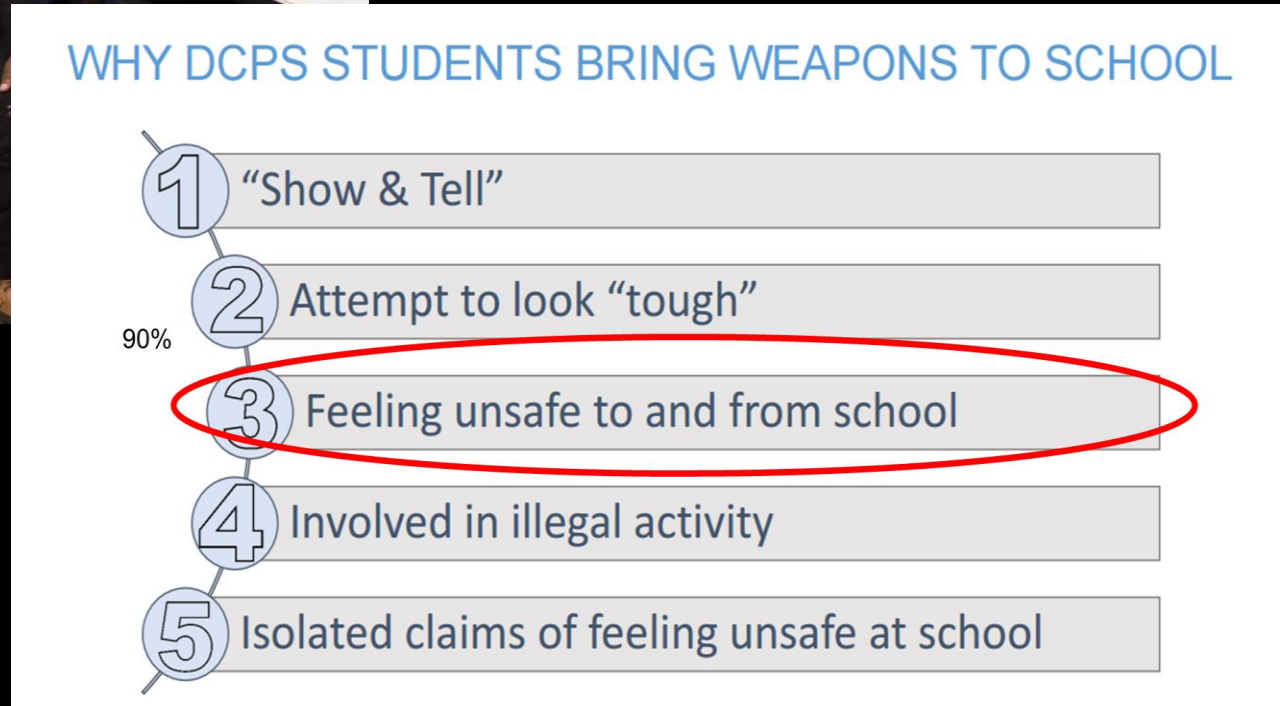
We want to change the youth justice system in Jax, so we started a

Partnership w/State Attorney Melissa Nelson





We discussed causes & solutions to guns in schools
with
Mayor Curry &
Dr. Vitti of DCPS



Partnership w/Mayor Curry



News4JAX

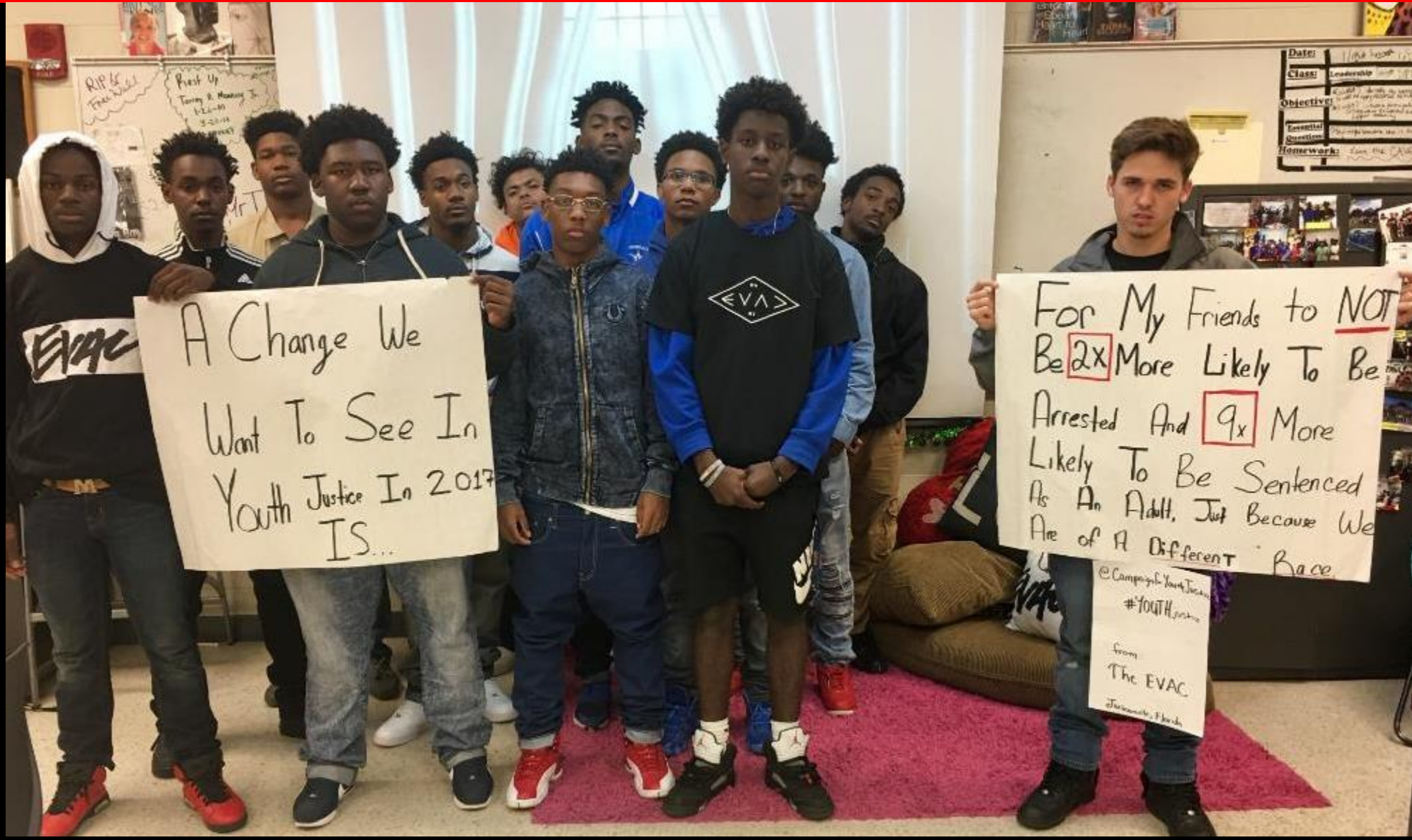


JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - A group of Lee High School students had lunch Monday with Mayor Lenny Curry at City Hall to pitch their plans for how to combat violence among youth and other issues their generation is facing.

Discussed how to reduce youth violence, w/more teen jobs & free rec centers (YMCA, etc.)

National Winner

@CampaignforYouthJustice, Social Media campaign



1 in 10 campaign proposals nationwide selected for
Harvard's KIND Schools Campaign



- #YourStoryIsMine campaign (based on EVAC)
- APPLICATION: several mini-essays & photo portfolio
- CAMPAIGN: bulletin board & social media (4,000+ followers)
- PRIZE: \$1,500



When we met at the State Attorney's Office last month, we found out we achieved our most important "dream crazy" goal...

Returned to JUVENILE COURT!!!!

10yrs prison (best offer) → 2 year youth program
Adult felony record → no adult record



CSX CHIEF: HEALTH PROBLEMS WON'T KEEP ME FROM DOING MY JOB



BAD GIGS: Bands talk about shows that flopped

Mueller appointment could complicate other probes

Special counsel may hamper congressional inquiries... except against the president himself. Now respecting the 14th Amendment, it is unclear whether the president is immune from criminal prosecution.



Tom Coughlin's Jay Fund touched more lives than conceived

Organization hopes for bigger profile with coach back in town

At a New York luncheon in December, Tom Coughlin's 14-year-old son, Tom Jr., was named MVP of the Jay Fund Classic. The 22nd annual fundraiser is held on Monday at the Palm Beach Country Club.

At risk, not without hope

Teenagers share their stories with leaders of local justice system



FLJC instructor Amy Iannetta talks about the makeup and history of the system after talking a survey during the forum.

End of Year

“At-Hope Youth Advisory Forum”

- We taught our city leaders about:
• Why teens carry guns
• How to reduce violence (jobs, rec centers, transportation)
• Improving youth-police relations

JAY FUND
To donate information, contact the Jay Fund at 561.834.5074.

will have its 22nd annual Celebrity Golf Classic on Monday at Palm Beach.

Last class of Junior Year

Lee HS students win Harvard contest

Winning project led by freshman, two juniors

By Tessa Duval

tessa.duval@jax.com

The announcement that came over the intercom at Lee High School Thursday morning started like any other.

But it only took a few seconds for a group of young men, a class that calls itself The Evac Movement, to realize they were the reason for the interruption. First came smiles, then cheers and finally applause so thunderous the rest of the announcements were lost in the noise.

"Thank you, Generals, for leading and showing the youth of the nation that though we might differ in looks, interests or neighborhoods, we all have more in common than meets the eye," the announcement said.

The Lee students had learned they were the winners of a national contest, the Kindness Challenge, hosted by Harvard University's Making Caring Common and The KIND Foundation.

The local effort was designed and led by three Evac students — freshman Nicholas Burgess, and juniors Christopher Burgess and Billy Luper — who launched a school-wide campaign, called #YourStoryIsMine, to help students understand they may



Billy Luper (left) gets a bear hug and balloons from Pastor Jay Harris of The Ville Church, as people from the KIND Foundation watch on Skype. (Bruce Lipsky/Florida Times-Union)

CONTEST continues on B-8



Senior Year

- TedxJacksonville “At-Risk vs. At-Hope Youth
- Presented at National Youth Summit in ATL
- Applying for college and dreaming of the future!



Above all...it's a brotherhood



...& we're here talking w/you all b/c we want what we've learned and achieved to be made possible for other Jax youth

Billy: How EVAC Changed My Mindset & Path



- GPA of 1.8 last year---→ 3.6 GPA this year
- Dislikes writing-----→ did multiple essay apps two different organizations
- Doubted College -> wrote campaign proposal selected by Harvard
- Selected for Bank of America

Alan: How EVAC-ing My Mindset changed My Path

➤ In the past I felt alone. I now have brothers who can support me and I can open up to when I'm going through things. I have adults to push me and who I can go to when I need help



- Arrested month before 9th grade----> no delinquent behavior
- Missed 2-3 days a week -----> perfect attendance for 1.5 years
- Low GPA -----> increasing GPA, honors classes, highest math score in 9th grade
- Doubted HS Graduation -----> youth advisor for Harvard (1 of 26 nationwide)

The logo consists of the letters 'EVAC' in a bold, black, hand-drawn style. The letters are slightly slanted and have a rough, textured appearance, as if they were painted or drawn with a marker. The logo is set against a white background and is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

Suggestions for What Programs Need to be Youth-Effective

1. Jobs
2. Consistent Mentors
3. Organizations to be a part of
 - Purposeful (tangibly do something)
 - Similar kids (brotherhood)
 - Not lame (real, don't treat like kids, topics we care about)
4. Transportation
5. Benefits (food, trips, media, job/stipend etc.)



Ms. Donofrio

Do's & Don'ts for

Successful Youth-Adult Collaborations

EVAC events (like today) are about youth educating adults. Our dozens of previous youth-adult roundtables have taught us a LOT on what makes a productive, meaningful youth-adult partnership. We'd like to share these insights:

BAD



•USING YOUR EXPERIENCE TO DISREGARD MINE:

- It's deeply offensive to respond to someone's (pain-filled) story with a story that "disproves" or "evens the score"
- Over focusing on similarities between your life and ours ("I went through it too, but...").

•ADULT "GUEST SPEAKING"/LECTURES

- Hijacking dedicated youth voice time to give lectures/sermons/childhood stories
- Minimizing our concerns by saying: "just do the right thing." As you can see, we spend a LOT of time doing and promoting "the right thing". This also puts all responsibility on youth & none on adults trained/paid to manage these issues.

•BEING DEFENSIVE/JUSTIFYING YOURSELF:

- The fact you're here says you are part of the solution (like us!) and don't have all the answers/are willing to learn/change/grow (like us!). We are here to attack systemic problems, not individuals!

•DISREGARDING REALITY OF RACIAL BIAS

- Ignoring racist acts/systems/data by focusing on defending yourself as an individual (ex: "I treat everyone the same, don't see color, etc.).

•ACKNOWLEDGE DIFFERENCES:

- Listening for and noticing differences in privileges between your life and ours, such as race, gender, family dynamic, time period, \$\$\$, etc. (ex: not every kid is close to their mom; growing up in poverty is very different in 2017 v. 1975, etc.). As a leader in our city, your awareness of inequalities makes justice possible for ALL, not just people similar to you.
- Understanding that the “right thing” isn’t the same for everyone’s culture/situation

•TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

- Focusing on ways you yourself can improve the SYSTEM
- Not supporting or excusing bad behavior of other adults, even if they are in the same field as you. This is HUGE in building our trust.

•GIVE YOUTH THE FLOOR!!!!!!

- Give preference to youth to share
- Before sharing, consider if your statement will directly help the youth you’re sharing it with
- Avoid comments, ask questions: “What could I, as an adult, do to.....?”

Q&A

