



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of the Virgin Islands*

*Ron De Lugo Federal Building & United States Courthouse
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6424
Voice: (340)774-5757
Fax: (340)776-3474*

November 26, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THOUSANDS MORE “SPEAK YOUR PEACE” CDs AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS

Project Safe Neighborhoods has distributed more than 1,000 “Speak Your Peace” CDs to public and private school students on St. Thomas, and will be distributing thousands more throughout the territory this week.

“If anyone connected with a school, public or private, would like to have these CDs distributed to your students, please contact me,” said Wesley Hand, Law Enforcement Coordinator with the United States Attorney’s Office. Hand can be reached at 774-5757, extension 2240, or at wesley.hand@usdoj.gov.

PSN, a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing gun crime, sponsored a song-writing contest last year to educate the territory’s youth about the impact of gun crime. Persons between ages 10 to 22 were invited to write and sing songs with an anti-gun violence message. Professional recordings were made of the winning songs, and the young songwriters and performers were featured in public service announcements on radio and television with Gov. John P. deJongh Jr.

With the help of an anonymous donor, PSN was able to put the full version of the winning songs on a single CD for distribution to all of the territory’s students. “The goal is to allow every school-aged person to have a copy of this CD,” Hand said.

Following on the success of a rally held at Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School on November 16, 2007, where hundreds of students took the pledge against gun violence and 700 CDs were distributed, Hand plans to travel to St. Croix and St. John for similar activities. The BCB event, which was attended by Gov. deJongh, has been the largest distribution to date of the CDs, Hand said.