



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 2005

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### **Reverend Eugene Rivers Returns to Delaware to Combat Violence**

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware Children’s Department has invited Rev. Eugene Rivers back to Delaware to meet with members of the Interfaith Coalition: Building Blocks of Wilmington today. The goal of this meeting is to further discuss ways to reduce violence within the City and to present a model, developed by the Values Response Team (VRT), designed to decrease shootings and gang retaliation.

Co-founder of Boston’s Ten Point Coalition, an effort by more than 50 local churches to join forces with Boston police to combat youth violence, Rev. Rivers first met with community members and Department staff and at the Department’s Prevention and Early Intervention conference this spring.

“Reverend Rivers gave a very powerful and motivational presentation as a keynote speaker at our Prevention and Early Intervention forum in April.” said Cabinet Secretary Cari DeSantis. “His return can assist the community and the Children’s Department in providing children with the right building blocks for their future.”

The VRT was developed in response to the homicides and shootings that were occurring in the city and includes members from the Interdenominational Ministerial Action Council, Stop the Violence Coalition and Churches Take A Corner. The target audience for the model they are developing is youth and young adults between the ages of eight and 24.

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