



GMTV news correspondent Cordelia Kretzschmar talks with Horizon resident about reducing crime among youth in the United Kingdom.

British News Channel Visits DJJ to Discuss Juvenile Crime in the U.S. and U.K. Residents & Staff Help Promote Positive Youth Interventions on Both Sides of the Atlantic

In the wake of the senseless shooting death of an 11-year old boy in England last week, GMTV news correspondent Cordelia Kretzschmar interviewed DJJ residents and staff on Tuesday, August 28th, to discuss juvenile detention and strategies for preventing crime among youth.

Ms. Kretzschmar, a British journalist stationed in New York, spoke with DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez and Executive Director Eduardo Marcial at Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx to compare crime trends in the U.K. and the U.S., and to discuss the recent increase in crimes involving guns and knives among youth in the United Kingdom.

While Commissioner Hernandez pointed out that every city is different and we by no means have all the answers, he noted that New York City has found success in tackling criminal activity. He also discussed the Department’s Collaborative Family Initiative (CFI), a program designed to release detained youth to their family sooner while ensuring continuing, uninterrupted delivery of critical mental health services. CFI is part of a significant restructuring of the juvenile justice system that was referenced by Mayor Bloomberg in his State of the City Address in January.

Ms. Kretzschmar also spoke with two Horizon residents, “L” and “J”, to discuss their ideas to address crime among juveniles in the U.K. Both residents provided insight into the daily schedule in detention, and shared their thoughts and feelings on being in detention and on the juvenile justice system. The GMTV segment on DJJ was broadcast as part of its regular morning programming that has a daily audience of more than 6 million viewers.

Commissioner Hernandez said, “DJJ staff and residents conveyed to the GMTV audience in England that responding to the needs of detained youth, including their mental health issues, is a far more effective approach to addressing juvenile delinquency.”

“This is the latest opportunity in a continuing exchange with citizens and officials in the United Kingdom to share strategies that effectively reduce crime and promote public safety on both sides of the Atlantic,” Director of Public Affairs Scott Trent said.

The British news channel’s visit to DJJ continues the Department’s long-standing relationship with the United Kingdom. Three years ago, law enforcement agents from Ireland were embedded with the Department for two weeks as part of the “Peacemakers” program sponsored by Columbia University. In 2003 and 2004, DJJ provided criminal justice students from Scotland with tours of its secure detention centers. Last year, DJJ’s Stephanie Prussack and Dennis Anyata participated in a documentary created by London-based Young Leaders Against Crime that focused on reducing criminal activity among juveniles.

