



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PLAY Academy to Begin Fourth Session

(Berkeley, CA.) Tuesday, January 24, 2012- Members of the City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD), the University of California Police Department (UCPD) and the Berkeley Boosters/Police Activities League (PAL) are pleased to announce that the PLAY Academy will start its fourth academy on Wednesday evening, January 25, 2012.

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Academy #3 Graduates - November 2011

The *Police and Life Academy for Youth (PLAY)* program got its start in September 2010 with the support of the University of California, Berkeley Chancellor's Partnership Fund Grant in the amount of \$25,000. PLAY is a partnership between the University of California Police Department (UCPD), the City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD), the Berkeley Boosters /Police Activities League and the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). PLAY connects law enforcement agencies with teenagers from the school district. A second grant awarded by the Berkeley Chancellor's Partnership Fund in September 2011 of \$20,000 kept the program alive.

Some of the diversity of topics that will be explored by the 15 City of Berkeley teenagers during the 11 week program are-

- +Concepts of Criminal Justice & Individual Accountability
- +Principles of Weaponless Self-defense & Color Code / Danger Awareness
- +Issues surrounding Teen Drinking & Driving Under The Influence (DUI)
- +Engage in Dialogue with a BPD and UCPD Career Panel
- +Explore criminal justice in action with experts in their fields.

A graduate of the third PLAY Academy said of the experience, "I thought [PLAY] was a really great program and it helped me see all the different jobs within the police department." Another graduate added, "My most memorable [session] was the self defense classbecause it was hands on and we had to step out of our comfort zone."

Community members and members of the media are invited to attend the start of the Spring/Academy #4 of PLAY. The kick off event will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Ronald T. Tsukamoto Public Safety Building, 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA. on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

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