

The Hate U Give Private Screening: Teens Exercising Extraordinary Success teamed up with 99Jamz, City of Miami Police, and RER Consulting to bridge the gap between teens and Law Enforcement.

Friday, October 26, 2018- Coconut Grove, FL / / Recently, The Hate U Give movie premier has raised discussion on law enforcement and the struggles of inner-city youth. Teens Exercising Extraordinary Success (T.E.E.S) and 99Jamz teamed up with the City of Miami Police and RER Consulting to bridge the gap between Miami inner city youth and law enforcement. The movie screening took place at the Cineopolis Theater, in Coconut Grove. As seen in recent news, police brutality towards minorities have been at an all time high. Major Gause rounded up officers to see the movie screening with teens, followed by a discussion after the movie. "I want to have an honest discussion with teens in the communities we are in, it is important for them to know that yes we may wear a badge, but we are human too with opinions and feelings."



The City of Miami Police brought in teens from Miami Northwestern High School and Gang Alternative, an organization focusing on creating community focused outreach and resource development approaches to address high crime and violence in Miami- Dade County. 99Jamz brought in teens from their quarterly Teen Talks they do in conjunction with Teens Exercising Extraordinary Success. Students started to arrive around 10:30 A.M. where they were greeted by a T.E.E.S staff member then were directed to pick up a kid's pack. Which included popcorn, fruit snacks, and a drink. As students settled in their seats, Ruban Roberts, CEO of RER Consulting, a company that works with local governments and key community figures to develop strategic plans, greeted the students and gave a brief introduction of what was in store at the movie screening.

After the film, you could feel the emotions that the film left on everyone. Students then had a chance to ask questions or make statements to the officers that correlated with the movie. Without giving the movie away, a student asked the officers "If there was black man with a suit on, driving a Benz, and reached in his car, would you shoot him?" Officers then paused to think. Officer Simmons answered, "Depends on the situation." One officer gave a compelling answer. "No one knows, but my 16-year-old brother was shot by a police officer, so I am very careful when it comes to pulling out my gun." Everyone in the room was not expecting for that to come out of the officer's mouth. It showed the students that everyone has a story, even police officers.

The Hate U Give touched so many points and showed the different views of what exactly is going on in these inner cities. One of the students asked the officers why they say to not record when it is legal to do so. While the officers had to be politically correct, they told the student that if you are recording make sure it does not intrude on the investigation or what the officer is doing. Major Gause stated “If you think you or someone was being treated unfairly, to not argue with the officer, just do as they say. Once you are free to go then file a complaint through the Internal Affairs department. “We have protocols in place when things of that nature happen.” The Hate U give movie screening not only gave students a chance to connect with the officers but also get some concerns or questions they had off their chests.



Headliner Market Group CEO Michael Gardner and City of Miami Chairman Keon Hardemon were the main sponsors of this event. “I hope we can continue doing things like this that will bridge the gap between the police and the youth, and I will do what I can to help do that because this is something the community needs.” Gardner expressed. Students were given an assignment to reflect on the movie and their experience. The City of Miami Police is and will continue to be more hands on in the community and the movie screening was a good start to show the youth just that.