

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney**

Press Release

April 6, 2010

District Attorney Sam Sutter is proud to announce plans for the third annual "Hear My Voice" event to commemorate National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The District Attorney's Office has joined with partners from across the county to hold this family-friendly event.

The "Hear My Voice" event will take place on Saturday, April 10 at the Buttonwood Park and Zoo in New Bedford. Officials from the zoo have graciously offered to eliminate its standard entrance fee between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

This year's event will have a sports theme. The event will feature Bubble Bowling, an Amazon Extreme Obstacle Course, Carabiner's Rock Wall, a Dunk Tank, and many more sporting events and activities.

The child abuse prevention event will also focus on educating children and adults about the dire consequences of various forms of abuse. To that end, an educational scavenger hunt for various age groups will also be held throughout the day. The scavenger hunt will help educate children with questions and clues regarding awareness on the topics of teen dating violence, sexting, and bullying. In addition, there will be skits performed showing the results and affects that sexting and bullying have on kids who are targets of this type of behavior.

There will be an appearance from the Boston Red Sox mascot "Wally the Green Monster" and "New Bedford Bay Sox mascot, "Slamu". In addition, there will be numerous musical performances by New Bedford High School's American Idol runner up, Fighting the Influence, the Azorean Cultural Society Dancers, Tony the Dancing Cop and much more.

The event also include free lunch between noon and 1 p.m., free fingerprinting and iris scans for children provided by the Bristol County Sheriff's Office, Internet safety sessions, free face painting and much more. All entertainment, food and events will be free to the public.

Several area social service agencies will also be on hand to educate parents about preventing child abuse, and numerous vendors will be in attendance to sign children up for local sports leagues, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA and the Girl Scouts. The multicultural event is being held to commemorate April's National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The idea behind the event is to provide Bristol County's youth with a safe place to enjoy the day, to help get them connected with various positive programs, and to inform parents about child abuse prevention.

Last year's event was a huge success, with nearly 4,000 people in attendance. Several volunteers from the District Attorney's Office will help run the event as part of District Attorney Sutter's successful volunteer initiative.

"I have said it before and I will be saying it over and over again. Combating child abuse is the highest priority at the District Attorney's Office," District Attorney Sam

Sutter said. "What we hope to do with this event is to raise the public's awareness that this is National Child Abuse Prevention month and that as a county, as a state and as a nation, we need to do much more to address a crime that is so grossly unfair and has such disastrous consequences."

The District Attorney's Office would like to thank all of its partners, including but not limited to the Buttonwood Park and Zoo, the Buttonwood Neighborhood Association, the New Bedford Mayor's Office, the New Bedford Police Department, the Bristol County Sheriff's Office the Children's Advocacy Centers, Times Square Realty, Venus de Milo, Trust of New Bedford, Gold Medal Bakery of Fall River, Sagres of Fall River, Yor Dogg Mill, the Waterfront Grille of New Bedford, Domino's of New Bedford, Freestone's, Fay's Restaurant, 99 Restaurant of Dartmouth, Naughty Dawgs, Old Navy of Dartmouth, Diman Regional Vocational High School, Dick's Sporting Goods of Dartmouth, Friendly Pizza of Dartmouth, Fisher Bus Co. of Somerset, D'Angelo Sandwich Shops of New Bedford and Dartmouth, Colonial Beverage, Bob Sea and Ski, Allied Waste Services, Angelo's Orchid Diner, T.A. Restaurant of Fall River, Fun 107, the Youth Court, Davy's Locker Restaurant, Texas Road House, Clipper Restaurant, First Citizen's Federal Credit Union of Fall River, The Shawmut Diner, Citizens-Union Savings Bank, Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts, Antonio's Restaurant, Mimo Restaurant, Fall River Ford, Jewels Day Spa of Somerset, Trio Café, Taunton Federal Credit Union, Salon Ambiance Hair Salon & Spa, Raw Martini and Rockland Trust.