

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

Press Release
March 26, 2009

The Bristol County District Attorney's Office is proud to announce plans for the second 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 4 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 noon and 4 p.m.

The event will include free entertainment, food, fingerprinting for children, Internet safety sessions, carnival games, a pony derby, train rides 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.

Free entertainment will include a Hannah Montana impersonation performance, Stretcho the stilt walker and unicyclist, Tony Baloney and his interactive magic show, Lucky Bob and his extreme juggling, Portuguese-American singer Michell Romeiro, the ever-popular Toe Jam Puppet Band and plenty more

Free food from around the globe will be provided by 99 Restaurant & Pub, Dominoes Pizza of New Bedford, Texas Roadhouse of Dartmouth, the Waterfront Grille of New Bedford, Your Dog Mill of New Bedford, Sagres Restaurant of Fall River, Gary's Best Hot Dogs and many other local establishments. Several area students from Bristol County schools and middle schools will also be in attendance to either perform, help educate or read the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of a Child.

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.

"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 Children's Advocacy Centers, 99 Restaurant & Pub, Sagres of Fall River, the Waterfront Grille of New Bedford, Dominoes of New Bedford, all of Bristol County's public schools, Fun 107 and the Youth Court.

Contacts:

Gregg Miliote
Director of Communications
508-997-0711
774-292-9576 (after hours)

Lisa Rowell
Media Assistant
508-997-0711
508-326-2217 (after hours)