



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

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Cardinal Ritter College Prep and Urban League Call to Stop the Violence

“This is a Movement; Not a Moment”

St Louis high school students call for a movement against gun violence, beginning with a metropolitan-wide march and rally on December 1st.

ST. LOUIS – On December 1, 2021 students from Cardinal Ritter College Prep are calling on all local high school students and those that love them to join in a march against gun violence in St. Louis.

Cardinal Ritter College Prep 2020 graduate, Isis Aaliyah Mahr, was killed in a senseless act of gun violence. Isis Mahr’s family, friends, classmates and community are saying “no more.”

Isis, who was working to become a nurse, was returning home from work at an elderly care facility when she was shot and killed. She was just 19 years old.

“Isis was part of our Cardinal Ritter family. Her life was precious. Her dreams were real. Her future was at her fingertips. She cared for the vulnerable. She was poised to make a difference. And her life was senselessly stolen. Instead of asking ourselves: ‘When will it end?’ Let us ask: ‘What if we end it?’ Everyone from education, business, government, community organizations, neighborhoods, and families must galvanize to stop this violence. Let us come together to listen to the voices of our young people and let them lead us through this. We can end this now and protect the future of the next generation.”

**- Tamiko Armstead
President, Cardinal Ritter College Prep**

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat at the front of a bus beginning the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On December 1, 2021 St. Louis high school students in unison will refuse to allow violence to identify their generation. Superintendents of every metropolitan Catholic, Public, Parochial, and Private school are invited to join the march 9:00 am beginning at Wohl Community Center. The march will culminate with a rally at Cardinal Ritter College Prep allowing our community to hear the voices of young people from all over the area. Families who have lost loved ones to gun violence are encouraged to join.

“It will take the whole community. It needs to start at home so our kids learn to love themselves. If they love themselves, it’s very difficult to kill another person. We are working with Cardinal Ritter college prep and other young people through the Urban League on the solution. This has to stop with Isis! We want Isis to be the catalyst that sparks a solution to this problem much like Rosa Parks was the catalyst for the civil rights movement so many years ago.”

- ***Brenda Mahr
Grandmother of Isis Aaliyah Mahr
Retired CEO of Employment Connection
Vashon Hall of Fame Alumnae***

For those schools who cannot join in person, they are encouraged to demonstrate support to end gun violence by marching around the perimeter of their own school, and to have their own rally to listen to the voice of their students regarding solutions to end the violence.

“We are obligated to pour into our high school aged children and encourage them to mobilize and address this violence and crisis of crime in the African American community. This generation has to mobilize against internal issues just as past generations had to mobilize against external issues. This date of the December 1st, “Movement Not Moment” coincides with what is widely known as launching the Civil Rights Movement. The Urban League is excited to work with the young people from St. Louis and will expand this to reach to high school students in Kansas City, Memphis, Chicago, etc.”

- ***James Clark
Urban League VP of Public Safety
and Community Response***

Atif Mahr, Isis’ dad, helped to start a “Stop the Violence” program that Isis diligently participated in. He says Isis was adamant about ending violence in her community.

“Isis lost her life in a moment, but she should be the spark to start a movement against gun violence. This “Stop the Violence” movement is in Isis’ name.”

- ***Atif Mahr
Father of Isis Aaliyah Mahr***

WHAT: March and rally to end gun violence to spark a movement, not a moment.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m. CDT on December 1, 2021

WHERE: March to begin at Wohl Community Center and end at Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School with a rally for unity with high school students.

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