



Congresswoman

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Summer 2001

Norton Commission on Black Men and Boys Begins

Following the Million Man March, Congresswoman Norton conceived the idea to create a local Commission on Black Men and Boys to capture the energy of African American males to help D.C. men and boys. It was recently funded.

Why Did Congresswoman Norton think a Commission was Necessary?

- ❖ To help revitalize the African American family, where today 70% of black children are without fathers
- ❖ Much stronger congressional action needed to address the most serious problems of black men such as: 50% of US jail inmates and almost half of

HIV-AIDS cases are black males; chronic unemployment; gun violence; alcohol and drug addiction

What will the Commission Do?

- ❖ Hold hearings to receive community and expert testimony in preparation of a legislative action plan to benefit D.C. men and boys
- ❖ Prepare a profile of characteristics and life circumstances of young black men in D.C.
- ❖ Identify sources of available government, private sector and community assistance for black men and boys

- ❖ Identify solution-oriented service programs that are successfully assisting black men and boys so that residents will know where to seek help or how to volunteer to help
- ❖ Identify gaps in necessary services
- ❖ Develop a D.C. Action Plan for Black Men and Boys

Who Is on the Commission?

The twelve-member Commission's limited funding by the U.S. Labor Department and one-year timeline restricts its size. The commission is chaired by former hometown football offensive tackle George Starke, Executive Director of Excel Institute (affiliated with

UDC; provides automotive technology training). The Commission includes men who work or volunteer directly with black boys or men, among them former Police Chief Isaac Fulwood, Ward 4 Councilmember Adrian Fenty, UDC Student Body President John Johnson, and Student Representative to the D.C. School Board Vincent Williams.



Some commission members join Norton at news conference kick-off. (L-r) Ernie Jarvis, Businessman; Rahim Jenkins, Righteous Men's Commission; Adrian Fenty, Ward 4 Councilman; Eddie Williams, president, Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies; Larry Quick, Executive Director, Lifepieces to Masterpieces; George Starke, chair; Joe Madison, WOL talk show host.