



June 15, 2000

MEDIA ADVISORY

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NEW YORK CITY YOUTHS TO BE REWARDED FOR STAYING GANG AND VIOLENCE FREE

G.R.E.A.T DAY 2000 *Gang Resistance Education and Training*

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the New York City Police Department will co-host ***G.R.E.A.T DAY 2000*** on **Saturday, June 17, 2000 from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.** for New York City students who have resisted the lure of violent gangs. The event will take place at **Aqueduct Raceway's Grandstand Park**, located at **110-00 Rockaway Boulevard in Queens**. Approximately 3,000 students and their families will be treated to a day of fun-filled activities and games, including live musical performances and appearances by local professional athletes. Refreshments will also be provided to all in attendance. This appreciation day is sponsored by the NYPD, under the auspices of ***G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training)***, a program developed by ATF and the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department in 1994.

The NYPD has 42 Police Officers who have been formally trained by the G.R.E.A.T. Program as instructors. These Officers conduct formal classroom training in the elementary and junior schools (grades 3-8) in New York City. Last year, this program educated over 10,000 students citywide. Funding for this program is provided by ATF through specific congressional appropriations and has touched the lives of over 2 million students. To date, in excess of \$1.5 million dollars has been provided for G.R.E.A.T. activities in New York City.

For more information regarding the G.R.E.A.T. Program, visit ATF's web-site at

www.atf.treas.gov