

METTA WORLD PEACE MOTIVATES JUVENILES IN DETENTION

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On Wednesday, May 21, 2014, former NBA player Metta World Peace visited Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, to instill hope and motivation into several groups of detained teens awaiting court proceedings. World Peace covered many topics, from dysfunction in the home to making conscious, better choices.

LACDMH staff and LA County Probation worked together to bring World Peace to the Hall. Starting out in the Chapel, World Peace spoke to a gathering of young men and women about “Knowing their (life’s) purpose,” and explained that each of them should not leave the facility without thinking beyond their release and choosing a more positive, specific direction in life.

The kids asked World Peace many questions about his own anger, how he broke the cycle of his own dysfunctional upbringing and why he changed his name. World Peace stressed that the group should become “conscious” of their actions; to consider the consequences of their actions prior to reacting in anger, as he did when a fan threw a cup of beer on him during an NBA game and he went into the stands to fight back. World Peace stated that his mother took him to a therapist when he was eight years-old and he has been in-and-out of treatment since. He stated, “It was the best thing she could have done for me.”

World Peace practices daily meditation to relieve stress and tension in his life and body. After winning the NBA World Championship in 2010 with the LA Lakers, World Peace was in a place in his life where he felt he needed to change others’ perception of him,

reflecting his personal growth. When asked why “World Peace,” he said he had several other names in mind but stated, “What’s better than World Peace?”