D.C. Youth Discuss, Reframe 2020 Challenges

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leaders, the virtual town hall reframed today's challenges and offered hope for a better tomorrow Jr. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and other youth, educational and community of the area's greatest leaders. Hosted by Do The Write Thing Foundation in partnership with MJT concerns, hopes and ideas for an improved city and world, as well as solicited advice from some Television and City Dreamz Entertainment and featuring participants from the Marion Barry, Youth Speak: COVID-19, George Floyd & Change," the youth of Washington, D.C. shared their As the saying goes, "children are the future," and in the Aug. 11 virtual town hall- "2020/DC

SYEP students, Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia for Education Paul Kihn; Associate Chili Bowl and members of the D.C. Council. Ashley Emerson; Principal Kortni Stafford from Kelly Miller Middle School; Vida Ali of Ben's Thennie Freeman; Executive Director for the Office of the Mayor on African American Affairs Director, Office of Youth Programs for the Department of Employment Services (DOES) Panelists included, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, former first lady Cora Master Barry, the

Students shared their perspectives on the pros and cons of quarantine due to the COVID-19

together. For example, when we were all to nine hours a day at school, and some in school, you would spend maybe seven staying home and you spend more time communicate more because now we're "I think quarantine helped families to

also look for a lesson... "...look for a blessing and

students may not go straight home because they have an after school activity so the problem in the family was communication," SYEP student Hope Payne said during the town hall.

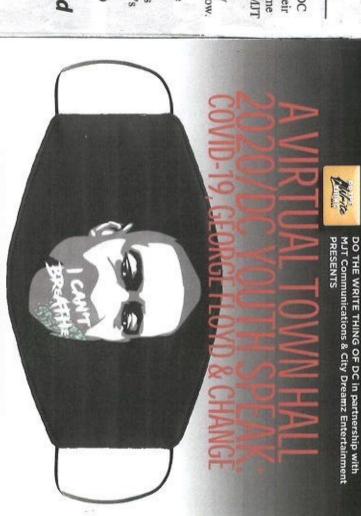
computer systems to do schooling online. provide for their children. As we see with the schooling, not a lot of kids have Wi-Fi or the important to keep in mind that there are families with abuse, and there are families who can't everyone shut in their room all day," student Catherine Turner said. "But also I think it's "It presented more of an opportunity to sit around the dinner table and eat or not have

side of 2020's difficult times. Barry, for whom the SYEP program is named, encouraged the students to look at the optimistic Despite the pandemic's challenges, Barry, the widow of former D.C. Mayor Marion

of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center (SETLC) and Recreation Wish List Committee. grew you, it enhanced you, it empowered you like never before," said Barry, who is the founder "Once you stop and look back and take perspective on this era, you're going to find that it

about your drive-bys, your amazing virtual graduations, all of the different things," the former going to see walking across the stage like millions of us... You will look back and you will talk Everyone else will look back at their graduation, and they're going to see proms, and they're were kind of down. And I said: 'Don't be down.' You just had a once in a lifetime experience "A lot of our young people [at SETLC] didn't graduate the way we traditionally do. So they

lesson," Barry added I'm just saying, look for a blessing and also look for a lesson because with the protests, there's a "We spent more time and attention on these graduates this year than we ever did before. So



MODERATORS; MARION INGRAM & MBSYEP TEENS MICHELLE TILLERY & DATHAN FENWICK FEATURING PSAs & POEMS BY MBSYEP PARTICIPANTS

SPECIAL GUEST:

Mayor Muriel Bowser

Thennie Freeman, Associate Director, OYP Former DC First Lady Cora Masters Barry Kortni Stafford, Principal, Kelly Miller MS Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton Deputy Mayor of Education, Paul Kihn Ashley Emerson, Director, MOAAA

Hope Lehman Payne | Brooke Givens Catherine Turner | Jasmine Marshall MBSYEP TEEN PRODUCERS: Gregg Spencer | Mark Rich

Effect of COVID-19 on Youth & Education

Effect of COVID-19 on Family & Friends

Effect of COVID-19 on the Overall Community

Effect of George Floyd's Death & Racism

TIME: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

DATE: Tuesday, August 11, 2020

PLACE: Zoom Room

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85988493348

George Floyd & Change," virtual town hall on Aug. 11. Young people and community leaders met for the "2020/DC Youth Speak: COVID-19,

explained the vitality of the youth and such conversations in the betterment of the nation's capital After listening to the many perspectives and questions from the students, Mayor Bowser

virus." "The words of the young people are going to be so important to how we recover from this